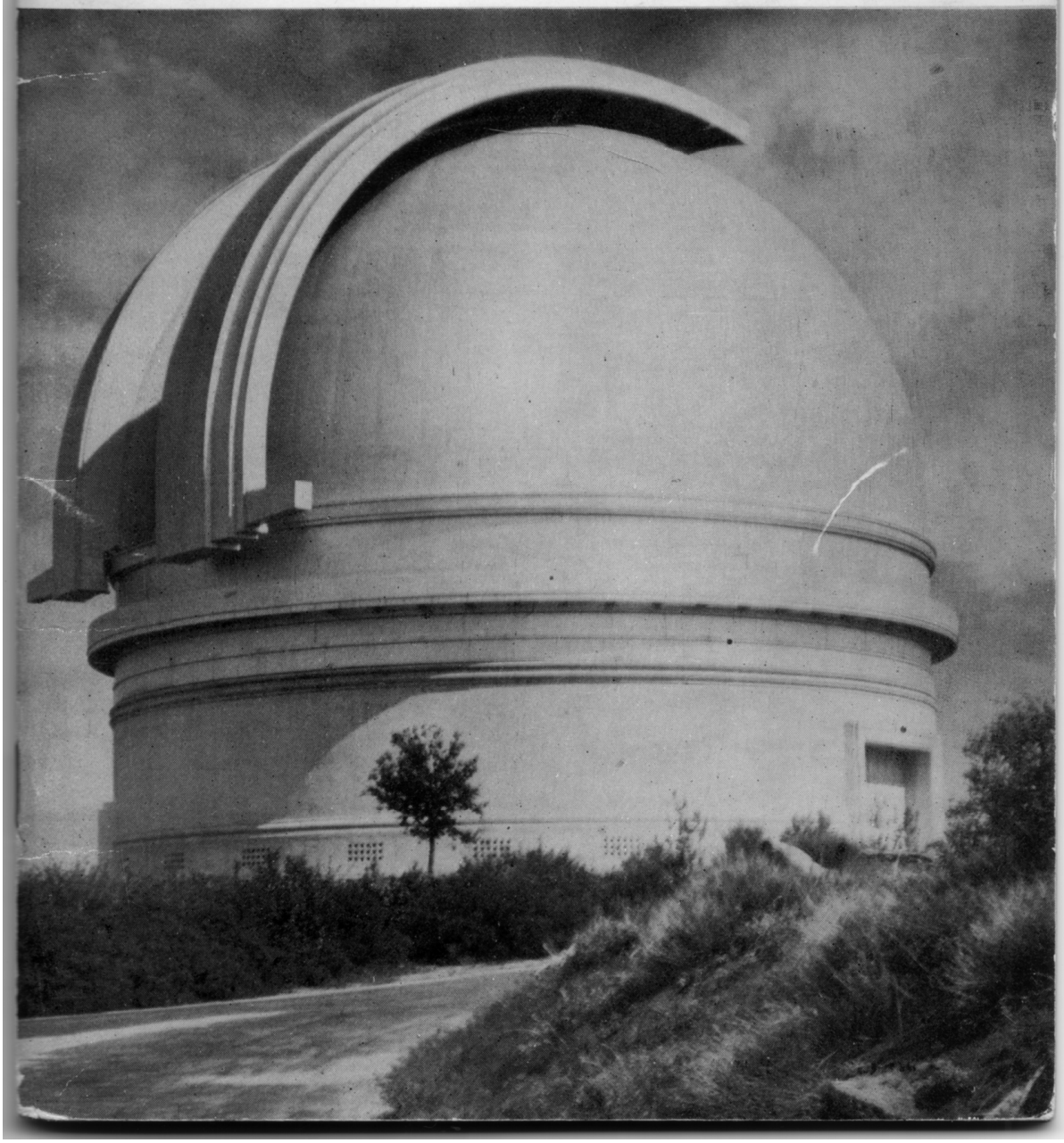
PALOMAR Mountain

PAST AND PRESENT

By MARION F. BECKLER



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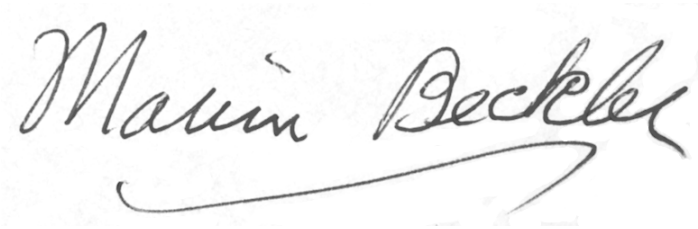

Peter Brueggeman, 2025
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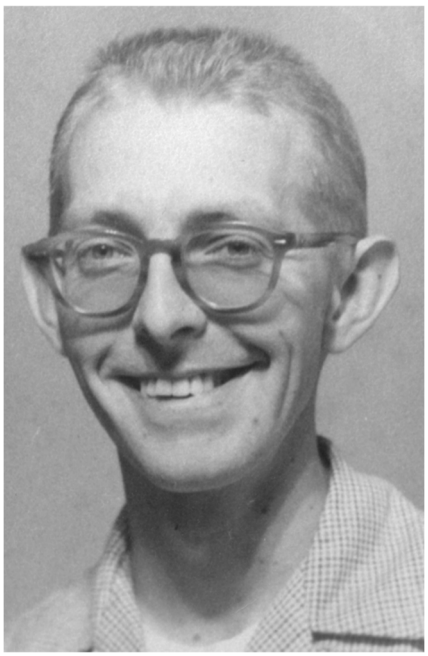
PREFACE FROM MARION BECKLER (left)

For aid in gathering the material of The Palomar Story I wish to express thanks to the Curator of San Diego History Center for use of the museum files, to Mary Mendenhall Knox; Charlie Mendenhall; Louis and Hodgie Salmons; Adalind Bailey; Beulah Cook Gates; Elsie Hayes Roberts; Alice Tillinghast; James Avant and Max Hansen, State Park Rangers; Fredrick Gros of the University of Redlands, State Park Naturalist; Reverend Robert C. Fleisher, Assistant Director of the Division of Camps and Conferences, and Southern California Baptist Convention; Ralph Scott, Director of Baptist Camp; William E. Bougher; E. Edwin Reddy; Claude Huse; Mrs. Benjamin Moore; Ruth Leach Dunbar; Kenneth Beach; and Byron Hill, Superintendent of Palomar Observatory.

PREFACE FOR THIS REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION



Thank you to Marion's son Stanworth "Danny" Beckler (**pictured at left**). Danny started going to Palomar Mountain at six months of age, and speaks fondly of his time there with family, at a cabin in the Crestline Camp Sites area, built by his father in the 1930s. Danny was pleased to hear about renewed interest in his mother's book, granting permission for revision and re-publication. Danny wished well to the Palomar Mountain community.

This revised edition is considerably abridged, revised, and expanded from the author's original edition. Descriptive non-historical text whose subject is better covered elsewhere was removed. Author errors were corrected. Proper names completed, and photographs, and explanatory annotations (in square brackets noted with PB) were added.

Peter Brueggeman

THE PALOMAR STORY...

Up the "Highway to the Stars" tourists come each year to visit one of the world's greatest telescopes. Scientists come from all over the world to study nebulae billions of light-years beyond the rim of our solar system. An atlas of the skies has been produced here for the use of the world's astronomers.

Postcard (Peter Brueggeman)

Such is the greatness of Palomar Mountain. Such is its place in the scientific world. The 48-inch Schmidt telescope, where the National Geographic Magazine has mapped the universe, is not open to the public. The 200-inch Hale Telescope, where astronomers work every clear night analyzing outer space, has a gallery open to visitors every day of the year. The museum by the gate shows results of the astronomers' study.

There is also another side to the Palomar Story. There are fragrant woods where people come to picnic and to camp, the ancient Indian campgrounds, the old apple orchards, the mountain meadows where Mendenhall cattle still graze. There is the charm of the place-names, such as "Doane Valley," "Boucher Hill," "Nate Harrison Grade" and many others, commemorating the old-timers who have made the mountain's history.

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, NOT "MOUNT PALOMAR" ...

As it is named on government maps and by the United States Post Office Department "Palomar Mountain," those who refer to it as "Mount Palomar" are incorrect. The misnomer seems to

have started with writers, referring to Palomar in conjunction with Mount Wilson which, like Palomar, has its great telescope owned and operated by California Institute of Technology. But, unlike Mount Wilson, Palomar is in no sense a mountain peak. It is a mountain range, a rolling plateau.

Geologically, Palomar Mountain rests on a granite block, twenty-five miles long, six miles wide. As we look down from Boucher Hill we see a vast country of ridges and depressions, running northeast by southwest, like the grain in wood. Five million years ago this country was a great flat plain; the cooling and cracking of the earth's crust produced these ridges and furrows. They are the series of faults responsible for lifting up mountains and dropping troughs or valleys. Palomar Mountain is surrounded by these faults. Though the well-known San Andreas Fault comes no closer than San Gorgonio Pass, on its course toward the Gulf of California, there is, along the mountain's northern base, the Agua Caliente Fault, and along the south the Temecula-Elsinore Fault. But Palomar, on its granite base without fault, is made invulnerable to earthquakes. For five million years this mountain, on its great granite base, has been rising, and is still rising.

FORMER NAMES... This mountain has been known as "Paauw"; as "Palomar"; as "Smith Mountain." For endless centuries the Indian tribes knew it as Paauw. The name blended the idea of "mother" with "mountain." The First People's legends told how, in the beginning when floods covered the earth, Paauw rose above the waters and saved her children. This Paauw of Indian legend was the summer resort of the tribes of the surrounding country. When the snows melted and spring brought out new leaf and bud, the people, like migrating birds, returned to their mountain campgrounds.

Artifacts from Doane Valley Robert Asher photo

Each tribe had its own campsite to which it returned year after year. Food on the mountain was abundant: bulbs, seeds, berries, deer and other meat, acorns.

Mortars at School Camp in Doane Valley

Relics have been found in those old camps, from hammers to arrowheads and pottery. All the camps are marked by morteros, the deep grinding holes where squaws once worked. Can we not see them, in those camps along Paauw's Crestline, grinding their acorns, gossiping, or gazing out over the panorama of rugged country, from the blue Pacific to the haze of desert on the east, where less fortunate tribes tramped each season, eternally, from sea to desert, from desert back to sea, in search of food.

While those busy Indian women ground acorns in those camps on Paauw, a great change was taking place in the land below them. No longer were their fellow tribesmen allowed to travel at will between the desert and sea. For up from the South had come the Spanish soldiers and dark robed padres. Now the deep-toned bells of missions were holding them. Finally, up Paauw's trails came soldiers on horses, obedient neophytes, padres. A mission was to be built down the River Keish, re-named San Luis Rey. They had come up the mountain for timber.

And now the Spaniards looked down off the crest, down into Baja California whence they had come with so much toil and hardship. But from Paauw's tree-tops came the gentle cooing of the Bandtailed Pigeon, so comforting, full of peace. And they named the mountain "Palomar,"

"Pigeon-cot." For a century, the Spanish-Californians knew the mountain as "Palomar." It was after the violent death of its first American settler that it was re-named for him, "Smith Mountain." And so it was known for fifty years.

PIONEERS OF PALOMAR...

JOSEPH SMITH

Pioneering on Palomar was closely connected with the opening of the Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail Service (1858-1861). The road came in from the east to Warner's Station, crossed Warner's Ranch and passed north of the mountain, with stations at Oak Grove and Aguanga. Immigrants began coming in their covered wagons. There was a growing need for supplies. Warner's Stage Station stood a mile east of the old adobe Warner Ranch house, then in ruins. For a few years before the Indians had come down from their village at the Hot Springs and had driven Warner out. This 27,000-acre Mexican land grant had been given to John Warner **(at left)** on his marriage with Anita Gale, who had been raised as a ward of the widowed mother of Pio Pico. But he had not dealt well with the Indians. So now he was gone, his great ranch had become the waystation of desert-weary travelers, who were passing through in ever increasing numbers.

In the growing demand for provisions Joseph Smith, overseer of the Butterfield road, saw a business opportunity. He may already have visited Palomar and known of its good hunting and of its grass to be harvested for horse feed. The stage road had opened in 1858. Smith was living on the mountain in 1859. Joseph Smith was an ex-sea-captain [PB: Smith being an ex-sea-captain is unverified]. He came west in 1848 with Colonel Cave Johnson Couts. He was with Couts in the survey of California's southern border [PB: Cave Johnson Couts (1821-1874) and the Whipple Expedition of 1853-1854]. In San Diego he took an active part in civic affairs and in boosting the town. Smith boosted and helped plan the first overland route, "The Jackass Mail." [PB: The San Antonio-San Diego Mail Line, organized and financed by James E. Birch, and awarded to Birch, June 22, 1857, with semi-monthly service.] When the Butterfield line started running, he was put in charge of keeping the roads passable and of watching out for bandits.

Ephraim W. Morse, undated

When the valleys of Palomar beckoned, Joseph Smith got Ephraim W. Morse of San Diego to go into partnership with him in starting a ranch on the east end of the mountain. Smith settled here in 1859, while San Diego was still in "Old Town," thirty years before Rancho el Rincon del Diablo became the town of Escondido. [PB: Morse owned a general merchandise store in Old Town for several years, then went to Palomar to raise stock and farm, returning to San Diego in 1861 to re-enter business as a merchant.]

Joseph -- "Largo" or "Long Jo" -- Smith hired Indian labor and built an adobe house with a spacious living room which for years was the center of social gatherings. He bought Percheron horses and built a road so steep in places that pioneers who came after him always walked up to save their horses and chained their wheels going down to keep the wagons from rolling over the horses. [PB: French Percheron horses were imported in great numbers to America, being used by farmers and teamsters as draft horses. Chained wagon wheels were locked so that the wheels didn't turn; the wagon slid downhill. The east road down Palomar Mountain was called a slide trail.]

Smith harvested the natural grass of his meadows. He stocked his ranch with cattle, sheep, horses, hogs. He thought of everything but filing on the land. Others followed Smith's idea of supplying the stage stations. Over in Malava (Mendenhall) Valley, John Place, former stage driver, built a cabin. West of Place, another driver named William Woolf settled. James Davis, father of Abel Davis of Valley Center, went into partnership with Smith raising hogs on acorns. George V. Dyche, a well-educated man from Virginia, was living near the foot of Smith's grade, running cattle on Warner's Ranch. [PB: Beckler has his name as simply "Wolfe."]

Home of Joseph Smith, first man to make his home on the mountain. After his death the mountain bore his name Smith Mountain for half a century. Escondido History Center, Mary Mendenhall Knox photo

For eight years things went well with Smith, till the day he drove to Temecula with a load of wool and picked up a hitchhiker. The young man was a deserter from a British ship in San Diego harbor, but to the sociable ex-sea-captain he was someone to talk to "who spoke the white man's language." Smith took him home and made him ranch foreman.

The cause of the trouble between Smith and his foreman remains a mystery that still inspires sleuthing. Some have said it was over Smith's Indian wife. Some have believed the man thought Smith had gold hidden away and was trying to learn where it was. Others say they were "having a drunken argument" that ended fatally -- a usual thing in that day. The man was fleeing on one of Smith's horses when he ran into George Dyche coming up the grade. Dyche was suspicious and made the man return with him. He found Smith's body. Dyche sent for John Place. They took the man as far as Warner's Station. They intended to turn him over to the sheriff, but, as the story goes, they stopped to "imbibe restorative for tired spirits." And while they did so, their prisoner was taken out and hanged. [PB: Joseph Smith was murdered in 1868.]

Joseph Smith had been prominent throughout the southland, and he had many friends. There is a story that he, in his seafaring days, had brought from China seeds of the "Tree-of-Heaven," that wherever he went he gave some of these seeds to his friends, and that the Tree-of-Heaven grew throughout the region.

[PB: Tree-of-heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, also known as ailanthus, Chinese sumac, and stinking sumac, is a rapidly growing, deciduous tree, reaching 80 feet or more in height, with smooth stems with pale gray bark, light chestnut brown twigs, and large compound leaves, with small, yellow-green flower clusters. It was brought into California mainly by the Chinese during the gold rush in the mid-1800s.]

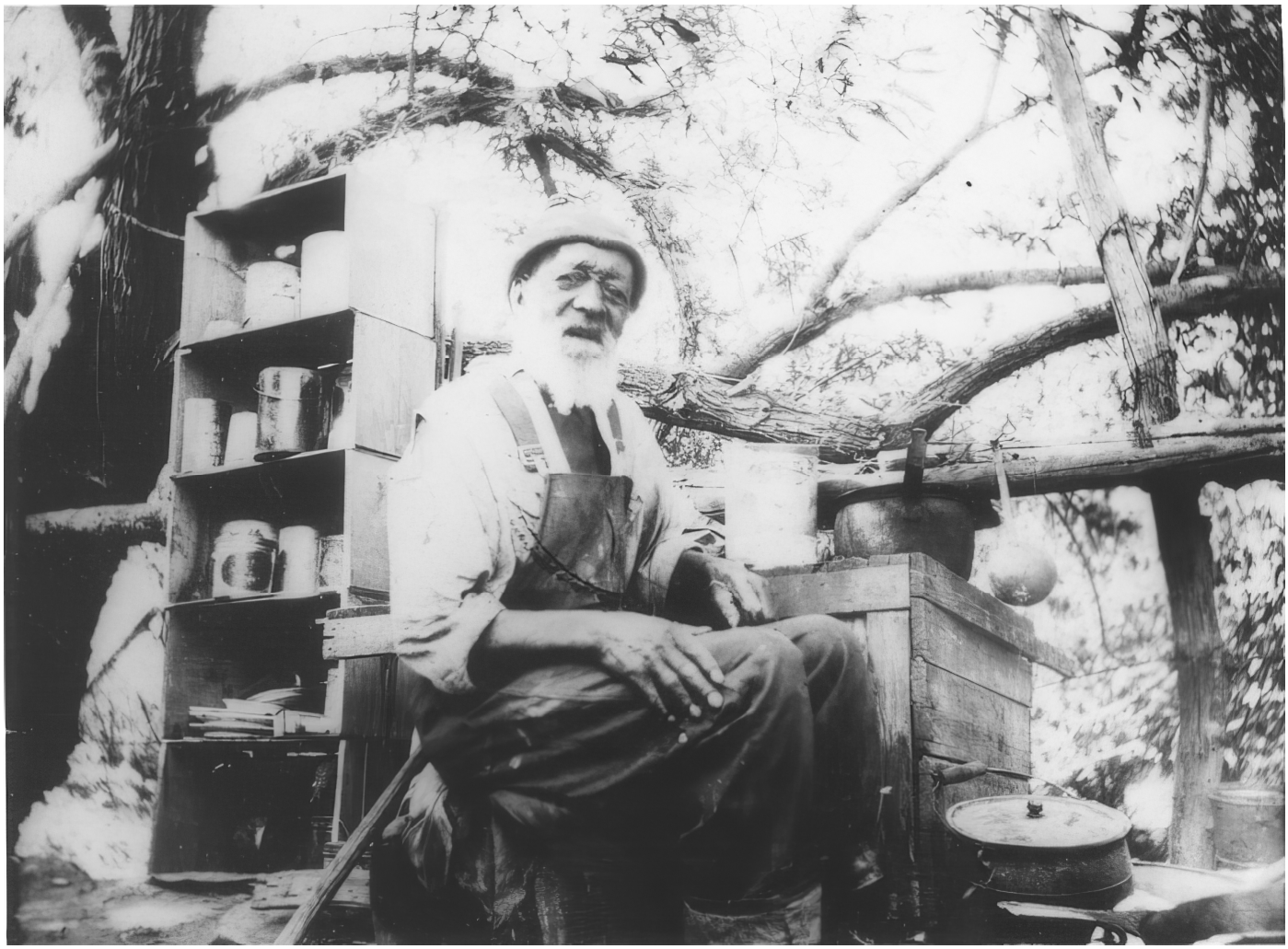
Smith undoubtedly possessed charm, and his murder caused widespread indignation. And to honor his name the mountain was re-named Smith Mountain.

NATHAN HARRISON

Nate Harrison posing with visitors, 1918 Peter Brueggeman photo

… Nate called himself the "first white man on the mountain." He was the first settler on the west end. His hut was not far from the road where there was a spring and horse trough. Here wagons stopped for water and Nate was always there with his cheerful greeting.

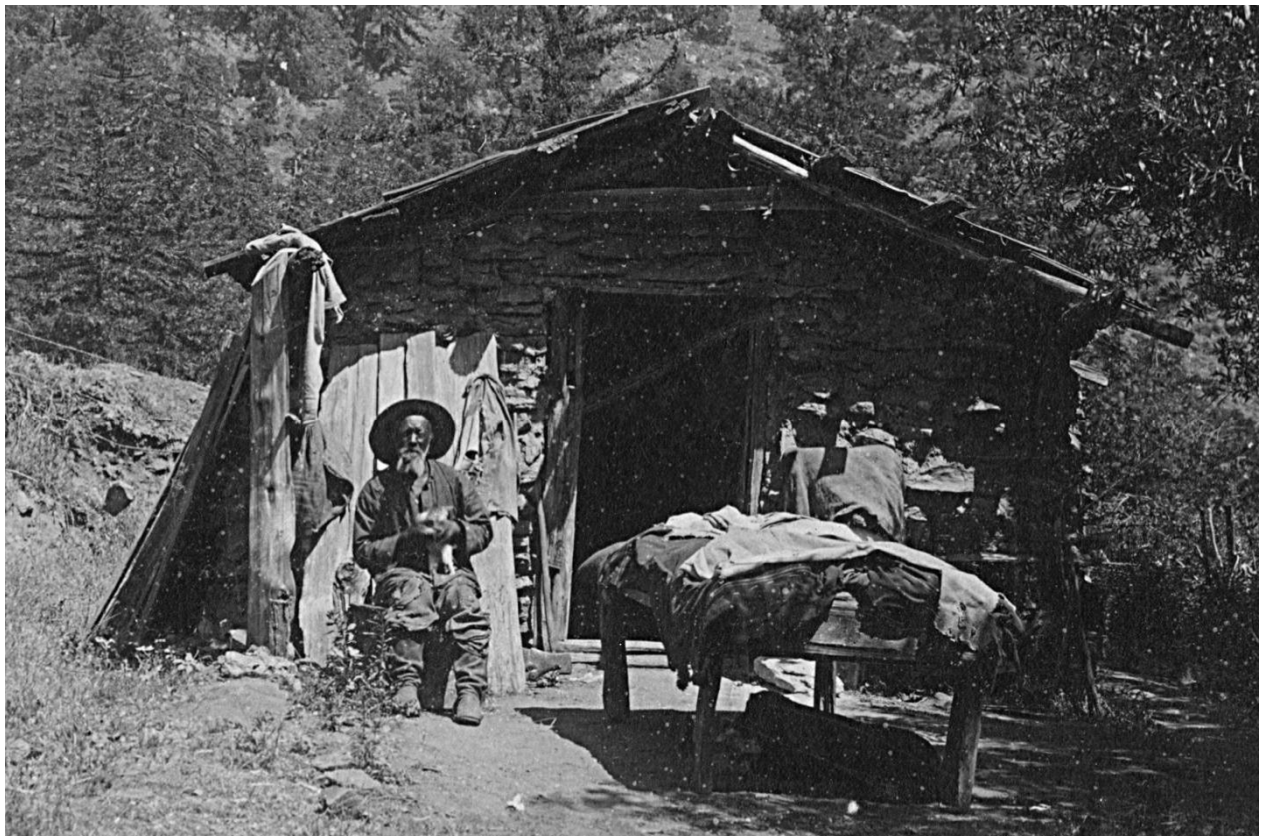
[PB: Marion Beckler wrote “He doubtless pre-dates Joseph Smith” and “He doubtless had lived there for around forty years when the west road was built in 1900.” Joseph Smith moved onto Palomar Mountain in 1859. Nate Harrison moved onto Palomar Mountain in the late 1880s (Born a Slave, Died a Pioneer: Nathan Harrison and the Historical Archaeology of Legend. Seth Mallios. New York: Berghahn Books, 2019).]



Nathan Harrison at his cabin near the old west grade Mary Mendenhall Knox photo

Before that time the mountaineers had used Smith's east grade or the more recent 1891 Trujillo Trail up the south side, paralleling more or less the "Highway to the Stars." So Nate's life must have been a very lonely one. Nate told many stories about his past, all picturing himself as a runaway slave who had sought refuge in the mountain solitudes, not knowing for years after the war that there had been a war and that he was a free man. He went first into the valley later known as "Doane," then moved below the snow line, built his hut, planted his orchard, and enjoyed the world as it went by.

[PB: Seth Mallios established that Nate's slave owner was Benjamin O. Harrison and not Lysander Utt (Born a Slave, Died a Pioneer: Nathan Harrison and the Historical Archaeology of Legend. Seth Mallios. New York: Berghahn Books, 2019). Beckler writes: "The truth about Nathan Harrison is to be found in the Southern California Rancher, issue of May 1952. According to that, Lysander Utt, grandfather of Congressman James Utt, came from Virginia to California during the Gold Rush, bringing one slave. Utt was operating the Pioneer Trading Post in Tustin when California issued a decree against unpaid servitude. So Utt's slave, Nate, was a free man. Utt's property interests on Agua Tibia probably brought Nate this way." Utt was mining in Mariposa County, and farming/teaming in Placer County; Utt's Pioneer Trading Post was located at the corner of Fourth and D streets.]

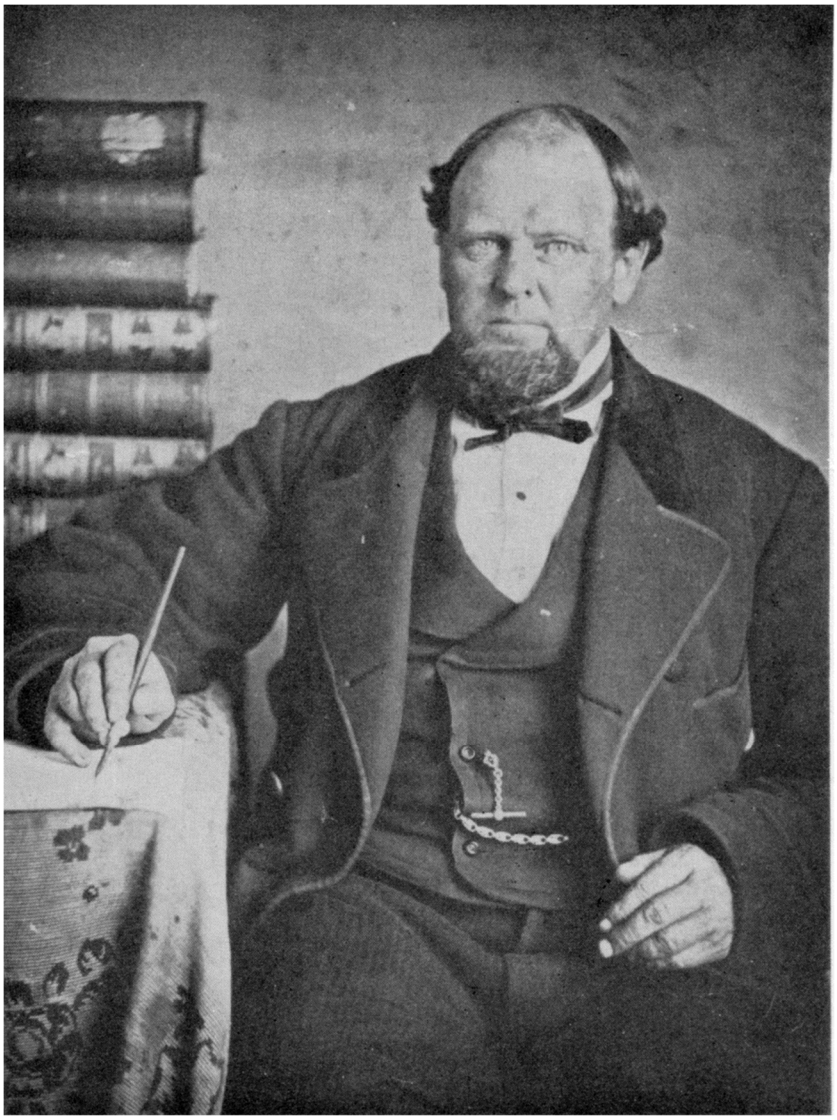


Nate Harrison at his hut Mary Knox Mendenhall photo

After his death a monument was erected in Nate Harrison's honor. People traveling that west grade -- a dirt road with the same hair-raising turns it started out with in 1900 -- will see that memorial where the spring and horse trough used to be, where old Nate once greeted folks with his jovial humor:

NATHAN HARRISON'S SPRING
BROUGHT HERE A SLAVE IN 1848
DIED OCTOBER 10TH, 1920, AGED 101 YEARS
"A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT."

ENOS T. MENDENHALL



The outlawry that followed California's Gold Rush spread over the Southland, shedding its lurid color on the Palomar story. Horse thieves, cattle thieves, wanted bad men who evaded pursuit were suspected of being in hiding on the mountaintop. What better place to hole-in and fatten stolen stock than Palomar's green valleys? For a posse who did not know the trails up the brush-covered slopes pursuit was impossible.

California's law enforcement agency saw the need of investigation throughout the Southland, and there was a man who had already proved himself in Secret Service (nee FBI of today) around San Francisco, working on Vigilantes Committees: Enos T. Mendenhall.

Enos T. Mendenhall came south on government assignment in 1869. Among his friends who had already come south were Alonzo Horton, who was busy starting the new city of San Diego, and Sam Striplin, who was homesteading in Bear Valley. Mendenhall homesteaded near Striplin, by Pine Mountain, his place later known as the Melrose Ranch, and later as "Hidden Valley Health Resort." He called his house "The Hermitage." [PB: Valley Center was formerly known as Bear Valley.]

Enos Mendenhall's secret service work throughout the county soon brought him up Smith Mountain. Joseph Smith's murder one year before was still in the Southland's mind. And there had been a more recent murder on the mountain. [PB: Beckler wrote "two years before" but Joseph Smith was murdered one year before, in 1868].

John McDowell was living with John Place in Malava Valley. Across the valley and to the west lived ex-stage-coach-driver William Woolf. Woolf and McDowell had a vegetable garden, doubtless to supply the stage stations. They got into an argument, and arguments in those days seemed to prove fatal. As the story goes, McDowell shot Woolf "in the onion

patch." When Enos T. Mendenhall rode into the valley, only Place was left. McDowell was gone and Woolf lay buried in the onion patch.

[PB: **John McDowell**, age 41, born in Kentucky about 1826, and a farmer in Malava was sworn in as a voter on May 24, 1867 McDowell is listed in Malava in voter registers from 1867 to 1879 and is listed in an 1875 directory of San Diego County; he is not listed in the 1870 U.S. Census.

In the 1860 U.S. Census, **John Place**, stage driver, age 37, born in Ohio about 1823, is listed in the Agua Caliente Township, which encompasses Palomar. John Place, age 51, born in Ohio about 1815, and a farmer in Green Valley was sworn as a voter on June 23, 1866. In the 1870 U.S. Census, John Place, farmer, age 55, born in Ohio about 1815, is listed as a farmer living in Warners Rancho with Mary Place, age 7; he's recorded with 80 improved acres, 80 unimproved acres, 16 horses, 1 mule, 10 working oxen, 30 cattle. 1870s San Diego Union news items situate John Place on Palomar Mountain, called Smith Mountain at the time. John Place is dead by the time of the 1880 U.S. Census.

In the 1880 U.S. Census, Macillum Place, female, Indian race, age 42, birth about 1838 in California, is listed as widowed and living in the Agua Caliente Township alongside various Palomar residents; she is recorded with occupation of keeping house and living with William Place, Indian race, age 17 and John P. Kolb, Indian race, adopted, age 5. In the Census Roll of the Indians of California under the Act of May 18, 1928, William H. Place is listed as widowed, age 66 in 1928, born October 1862, ½ Indian, with Mission Los Coyotes tribe or band. William Henry Place is buried in San Diego's Mount Hope Cemetery with his gravestone stating 1862 to 1953. In land patent records, Macala Place is recorded homesteading 160 acres in Mendenhall Valley with the land granted in 1883.

William Woolf, age 34, born in Tennessee about 1832, and a farmer in Paloma was sworn in as a voter on August 7, 1866. Woolf appears in voter registers through 1873. William Woolf likely died around 1873.]

The Woolf Place. The Woolf Cabin no longer exists, and the later buildings shown here are in ruins
Escondido History Center, Mary Mendenhall Knox photo

Anyone entering for the first time one of the mountain's beautiful valleys, rich with grass, watered by a perennial stream, closed in by wooded hills, may imagine the effect on Enos T. Mendenhall when he rode into Malava Valley. A man of vision, he saw the great possibilities for the start of a cattle empire. He wrote to his three sons to come south.

Enos T. Mendenhall was born in North Carolina in 1822. When a young man his family moved to Indiana and he became a "Hoosier Schoolmaster." In 1847 when the Henderson Luelling wagon train started for Oregon from Salem, Iowa, bringing Oregon its first apple trees, young Enos Mendenhall felt the lure of the far west, and went with that wagon train [PB: Beckler spells it Lewelling].

Rachel Emily Mills Mendenhall, undated

In Oregon Enos met and married Rachel Emily Mills (Mills College commemorates her family.) The young couple came south and, with their baby daughter Elvira Ellen, were living in San Francisco when the tremendous excitement of the gold rush hit California. They moved up into the "gold country" and started hotels, one near Sacramento, one in Colfax, one in Grass Valley. Enos Mendenhall was also in the lumber business. When crime throughout that region became so great that vigilantes committees were organized, Enos T. Mendenhall was an active member. The loss of his sawmill and one of his hotels by fire was thought to be vengeance for his Vigilantes action.

Eight more children had been born to the Mendenhalls. Two died. Those who lived were George Washington, Hannah Jane, Sylvester Jacob, Sylvinia, Thomas Dick, and Lydia Asenath.

When her husband came south, Mrs. (Grandma) Mendenhall did not come. During the years of raising her large family she had helped the whole countryside as nurse and midwife -- duties later assumed by the wife of Sylvester Jacob on Palomar. Now she preferred the comforts of the home of her daughter Lydia, who had married a man of wealth.

Enos T., George, Sylvester, and Dick all homesteaded and took pre-emptions on the mountain. Enos T. and George came south in 1869, and Sylvester came in 1872, then a baby of eighteen. He joined his father and brothers in hog raising, started by Enos T. as a blind while he carried on his secret service work. They also had dairy cows and sold butter at 72 cents a pound to the Stage Station in Oak Grove.

[PB: Pre-emption means the settler was physically on the public lands property before the U.S. General Land Office officially sold or even surveyed the tract, and s/he was thus given a pre-emptive right to acquire the land from the United States.]

Sylvester Jacob Mendenhall and his son Sylvester "Charlie" Charles, undated

Sylvester, when he was 21, used his homestead and pre-emption rights in Malava Valley, northeast of John Place, and at the west end of the valley where Iron Springs Creek enters. George and Dick had returned north. A few years later Sylvester decided to return to school and finish his education, going to the California Wesleyan College at San Jose. [PB: Beckler called it "College of the Pacific," which is a later name for it]. When he came south again, he brought his bride, Annie Elizabeth Morris -- a girl from Utica, New York. The young couple lived first on the Melrose Ranch where their son Sylvester "Charlie" Charles was born. Then they moved into their cabin on Iron Spring Creek where Lucius "Carl" Carlisle was born.

During the mid-1880s, when San Diego was having its great boom, they moved to the city and ran a cafe on Market Street. They were doing well but their sons contracted malaria, so they came back to the mountain. Thereafter, the Sylvester Mendenhalls lived on the mountain, raised their family, and, in partnership with Enos T., built up the famous cattle herds.

During the 1870's many other families had come and homesteaded on the east end of the mountain. In 1876 William Whitlock settled in the valley south of Malava, now Pedley Valley. In 1877 the Cooks came from Texas in a covered wagon, Jefferson "Jeff" Cook and his sons, William, Hiram M., and George W. Jeff Cook, a widower, lived in Downey till he remarried, then came up and homesteaded in Jeff Valley. Will had homesteaded in Will Valley. George had homesteaded, and his home still stands under the poplar trees, north of the road through Dyche Valley.

[PB: Jefferson and Lucinda Cook came to Smith Mountain in 1877, with six of their dozen children: sons George, Hiram and Tom, and daughters Susie, Ida and Beulah (Escondido Times Advocate, April 25, 1971, page 55, column 1). The Howe Family Tree by irshldybug, on ancestry.com has Jefferson Madison Cook (1824-1899) married to Lucinda Moore Fox Reynard (1836-1920) with children Frances Elizabeth, Charlotte, George Washington, Lenora, Alice Wright, Hiram Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Susan, Ida Bell, Beulah, Thelma, Rachael, Mary Ellen, and Anne. Jefferson Madison Cook was married to an earlier wife Mary "Polly" Jones with children Elizabeth, William H., Churchill Hampton and Rosanna.]

Over north of Malava were the James Barkers, in Barker Valley.

[PB: Becker wrote "Over north of Malava were the Joseph R. Barkers, in Barker Valley." Barker Valley is named after James Barker who lived there with Charlotte Cook Littlefield, their daughter Charlotte Barker, and Charlotte Cook Littlefield's children from her preceding marriage to James Littlefield including Emma. Emma Littlefield used the Barker last name throughout her life; she married Louis Salmons, who referred to her as Emma Barker, and is identified as Emma Barker in the U.S. Census and newspaper stories. John W. Stockton purchased 160.82 acres in Barker Valley from the U.S. government on March 11, 1891. John Stockton's mother was Anna Ladd Damron, and her second marriage was to Benjamin Franklin LaRue. Anna Ladd Damron's brother was Joseph Warren Damron, who will appear in this narrative later.]

In the east end of Malava were Isaac G. Burnett, Benjamin F. La Rue, and James Frazier.

[PB: Isaac G. Burnett purchased 160 acres in the hills north of Mendenhall Valley through which runs Canfield Road on October 8, 1892. Benjamin Franklin Larue (1848-1906) purchased 160 acres on January 21, 1890, 80 acres on October 4, 1890, and 79 acres on July 17, 1894, all in lower Mendenhall Valley. James Frazier (1838-1913) owned property in Mendenhall Valley.]

In the west were the Marion Smiths, the Johnstons, and the Newlins.

[PB: The Marion Smiths were Marion Smith (1861-1939) and his first wife Melinda Janetta "Minnie" Johnston Smith (1870-1898), who had four children. Marion Smith purchased 160 acres between Fry Creek and Iron Springs Creek with Canfield Road to the east on November 23, 1891, and homesteaded 160 acres between Mendenhall Valley and Pedley Valley which was granted April 30, 1896.

Beckler spelled it Johnsons. The Johnstons were Roderick "Roy" Henry Johnston (1863-1945) and Francis Olympia "Nannie" Bailey Johnston (1870-1929) who had three children. Roderick's sister Melinda Janetta "Minnie" Johnston was Marion Smith's first wife. Roderick's sister Lillie May Johnston (1874-1951) married Bertrand R. Douglass (1868-1943) of Palomar's Smith and Douglass Hotel. The Smith of that Smith and Douglass Hotel was Marion Smith. Roderick's sister Ella L. Johnston married Cornelius Cloud Newlin (see below).

For Palomar, Roy Johnston is listed with variant spellings in voter registers, directories, and census from 1892 to 1904, and Amos J. Johnson is listed in a 1901 directory. Amos J. Johnson purchased 160 acres in upper French Valley on August 17, 1903.

The Newlins were Cornelius Cloud Newlin (1858-1906) and Ella L. Johnston Newlin (1865-1963), who had three children. Their daughter Retha May Newlin married Lucius Carlisle Mendenhall, the son of Sylvester Jacob Mendenhall. The Newlins are listed on Palomar in the 1900 U.S. Census and the 1901 San Diego City and County Directory.]

James H. Waggoner had filed on the William Woolf place, and Augustus Kitching had bought out John Place.

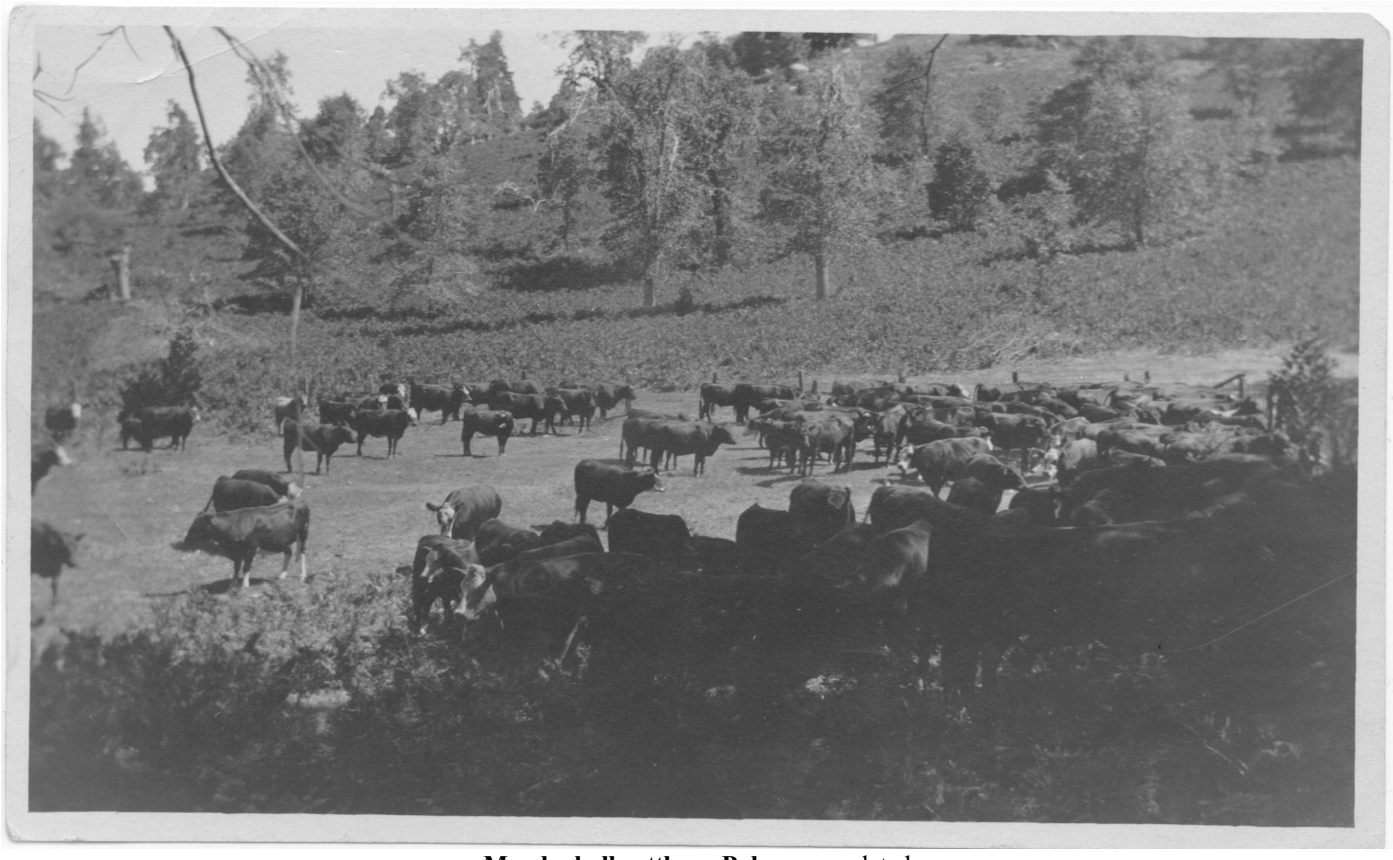
[PB: James H. Waggoner of Paloma, sworn in to vote on May 25, 1867, was listed in voter registers for 1867-1873. Augustus Caesar Kitching (1847-1931) with his wife Amelia and three sons and two daughters. Augustus Kitching is listed with variant names in San Luis Rey in the 1870 Census and in voter registers (sworn in on July 30, 1869) and directories for 1871-1875.]

One by one these homesteaders, who had believed they could make a living on 160 acres of mountain scenery, sold out to Enos T. and Sylvester J. Mendenhall.

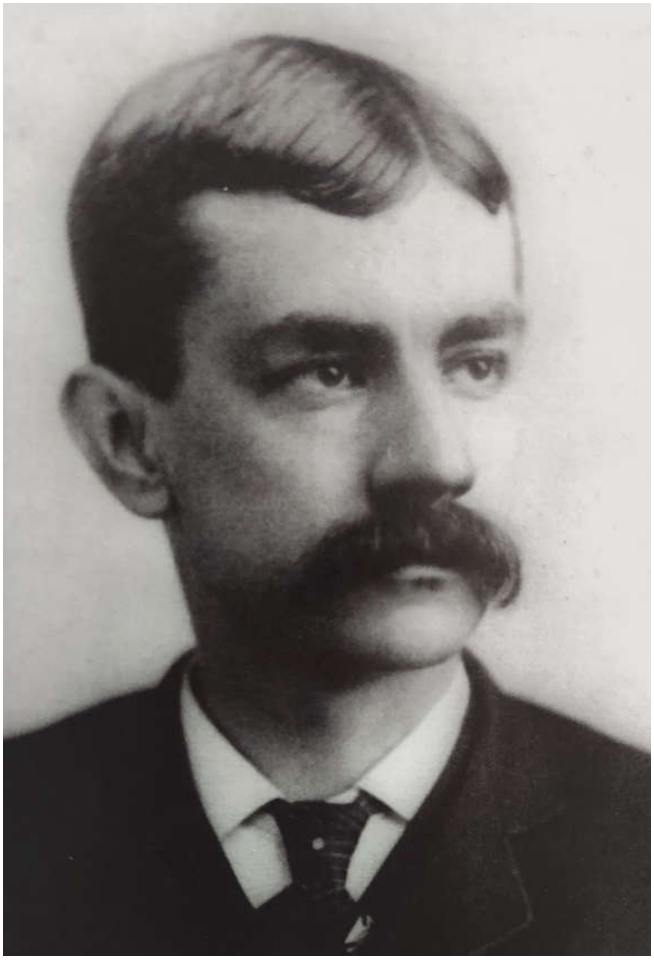
This cabin, where Sylvester Mendenhall's family grew up, was known originally as the John Place home. It was torn down when a modern home was built in Mendenhall Valley.

Mendenhall Valley, undated

Mendenhall cattle on Palomar, undated Mary Mendenhall Knox photo



Mendenhall cattle on Palomar, undated



George V. Dyche, undated Joanna Gunther photo

Smith's valley had become Dyche Valley. George V. Dyche had filed on the land and had bought Smith's stock from the Wolfskill Brothers of Rincon del Diablo, who had taken over at Smith's death.

[PB: Beckler said the Wolfskill brothers of Rincon del Diablo (John, Josiah, and Matthew) sold Smith's stock to George Dyche; however their father William Wolfskill had purchased the Smith ranch and livestock, intending to put his son John on it. Rancho Rincon del Diablo was a Spanish land grant in Escondido. It wasn't part of the mission system, and so was considered unblessed, giving it the name, "the devil's corner." In 1868 Edward McGeary and the Wolfskill brothers purchased the ranch, reduced the cattle operation, and started sheep ranching and agriculture (grapes, orange groves).]

The Sylvester Mendenhalls bought out James H. Waggoner, and were living there when their third son, Edmund "Hap" Thomas was born [PB: in 1887]. Then Mrs. Kitching, after a winter of seven months of snow, decided she couldn't take the mountain any longer, and so Augustus Kitching sold out to Mendenhalls. And here, in the original John Place cabin, with additions, lived the Sylvester Mendenhalls. Here were born Mary Elizabeth [PB: born 1889], George Frederick [PB: born 1891], and Annie Edith [PB: born 1895]. Malava had truly become "Mendenhall Valley."

MISS NELLIE AND THE BEGINNING OF MAIL DAYS

N**ellie postmark, 1912**

Nellie McQueen's sojourn on Smith Mountain was comparatively short, but her name left a lasting impression.

Her father, Angus McQueen, a Canadian, led a wagon train west in the Gold Rush days. He and Miss Nellie opened a hotel, livery stable and store on the Box Springs Grade -- the old road between March Air Force Base

and Riverside. They did a good business, but Smith Mountain called. They sold out, loaded their household goods on the old covered wagon, and came.

[PB: Beckler calls him Peter McQueen. In 1882, Angus McQueen sold his Box Springs property to the California Southern Railroad Company, which was building a railroad line from Temecula to San Bernardino running through his property.]

Nellie McQueen was "tough as raw-hide, wiry, real good looking." As she and her aging father drive up into Dyche Valley, past the George Cook home and orchard, we can imagine her sharp eyes appraising the pleasant scene, choosing the lush meadow to the south of the Dyche home -- where less than twenty years before Joseph Smith had been murdered. The McQueens built their cabin under those towering Trees of Heaven, sprung from seed brought from China by the mountain's first settler.

[PB: Joseph Smith was murdered in 1868, and the McQueens moved to Palomar in 1882. Beckler added several years saying the McQueens moved to Palomar "where twenty years before Joseph Smith had been murdered."]

During those strenuous 1870s, when Smith Mountain pioneers were clearing their land, building their cabins, planting their apple orchards, they were having a long drive to Warner's Station and Store for supplies and mail. Whoever happened to be going, got the mail for everyone. So Miss Nellie saw the opportunity to start a post office.

She wrote to the office of Post Master General, asking for the post office, offering her name as postmaster. For the name of the post office she suggested "Fern Glen." According to the National Archives, Nellie McQueen got her contract on April 2, 1883. But the postal department turned down the double name, "Fern Glen." They gave the post office her name: "Nellie." Once a week, Miss Nellie, (as the old timers called her) saddled her horse, rode down the mountain, up through Mesa Grande to Ramona, returning next day with the mail. George Cook sometimes assisted as carrier.

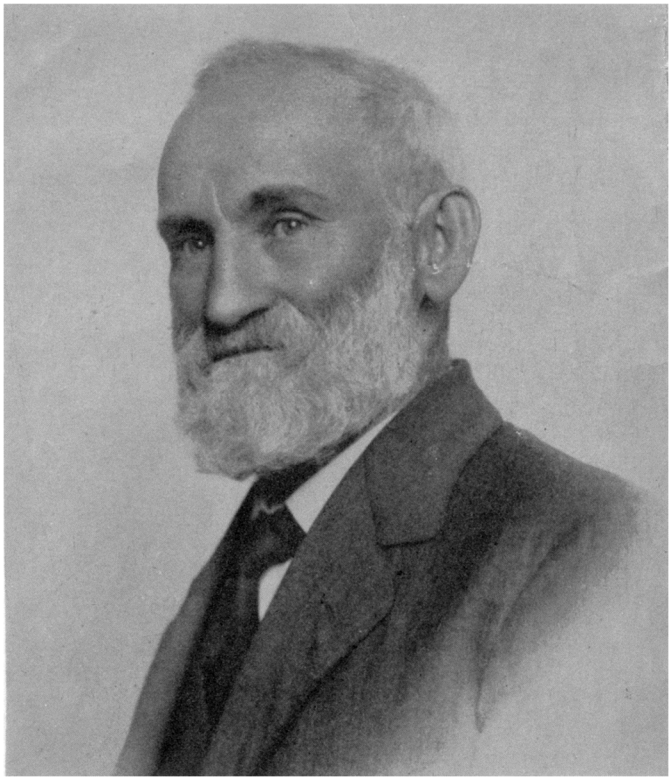
Soon after the coming of the McQueens, the Seburns -- Miss Nellie's sister's family -- took up land south of them and planted their forty-acre apple orchard.

Angus McQueen died in 1886. In mountain vernacular, "he went out to milk the cow and kicked the bucket." The strain of postmaster and carrier proved too much for Nellie McQueen. After four years of it she moved to Diamond Valley, near Hemet, and the post office went to Seburn's, then to Bailey's. But still the post office was "Nellie," and it stayed "Nellie" for thirty-seven years.

[PB: Beckler said Angus "Peter" McQueen died in 1882, misspelled Seburns as Seiberns, and said the post office name was Nellie for fifty years. Angus McQueen was born in Ontario, Canada in 1813, and had four children, two of whom were Ellen (Nellie) McQueen (1850-1920+) and Eliza Lavilla McQueen (1853-1914), both born in Ontario. An 1886 obituary for Angus McQueen of Smith or Palomar Mountain stated he was born in 1812 in Ontario, Canada, had come to northern California in 1849, later settling at Box springs in San Bernardino County, and then moved to Palomar Mountain in 1882. Land patents have Nellie McQueen Nicolson and Eliza L. Seburn on one patent for 160 acres, granted in 1892. Angus McQueen is listed on the land patent record with them, but his name doesn't appear on the land patent document itself. Ambrose Seburn (1856-1938), the husband of Eliza L. Seburn, is on an adjacent land patent for 160 acres, granted in 1889. Nellie Nicholson (with an 'h' and not spelled Nicolson as in the land patent) was the married name of Nellie McQueen. A marriage license was issued on May 29, 1891, to John Nicholson, a native of Scotland, aged 53, a resident of Winchester (which is an area in Riverside County) and Nellie McQueen, a native of Canada, aged 40, resident of Smith Mountain.

Numerous newspaper sources have John Nicholson's last name spelled with an 'h'. U.S. land patents to him in Riverside County spell Nicolson without an 'h.' Mrs. Eliza Seburn, Nellie's sister, took over as postmaster from Nellie McQueen in 1889, and then Theodore O. Bailey took over as postmaster in 1891. After Palomar Mountain residency, Nellie McQueen Nicholson lived with her husband John Nicholson on his Glen Margaret ranch in Diamond Valley in Riverside County. John Nicholson died on December 9, 1911, and Nellie Nicholson died sometime after the 1920 U.S. Census.]

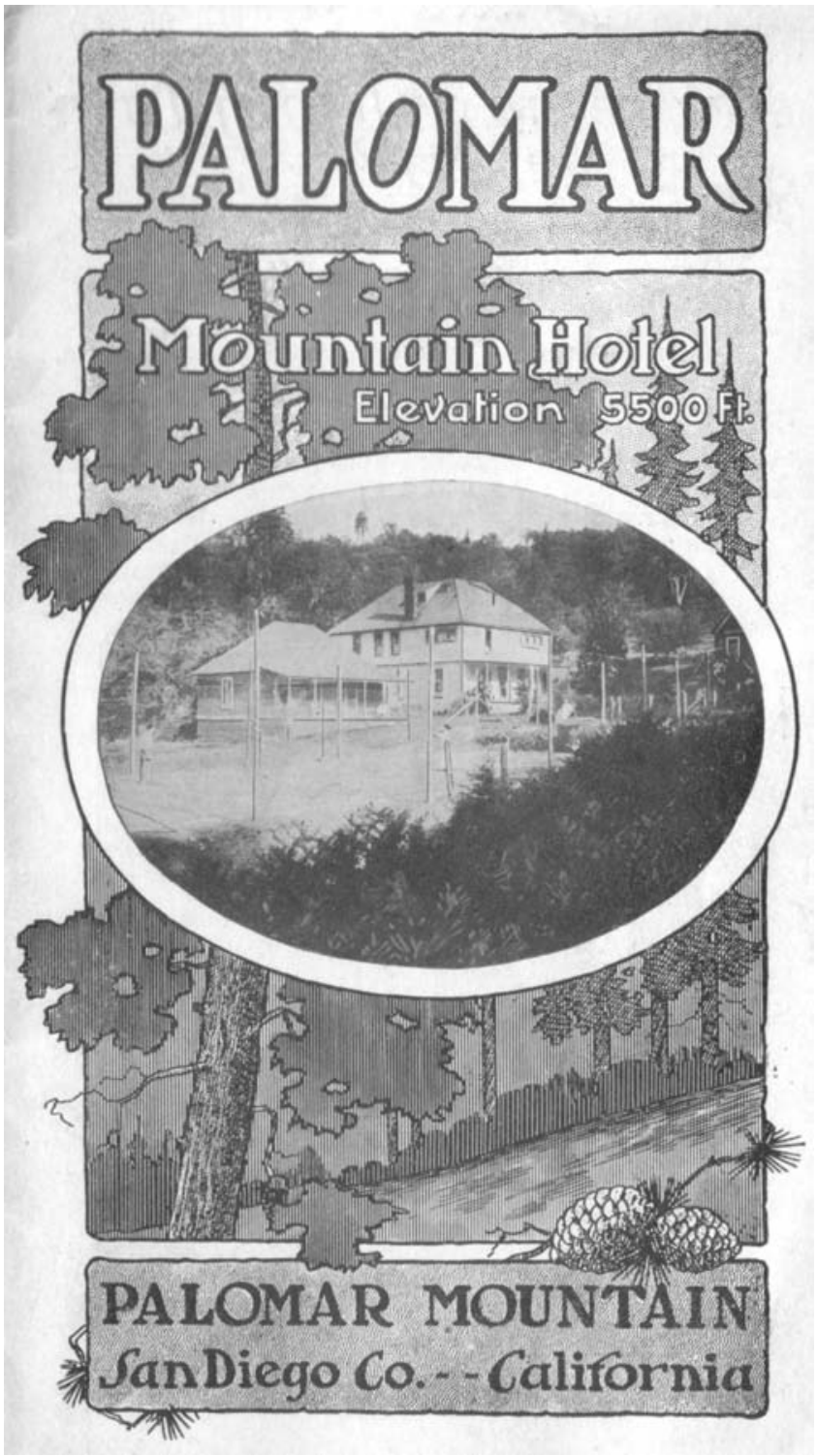
THEODORE BAILEY



With the coming of the Baileys, Smith Mountain had its two pioneer families that brought it fame. The Mendenhalls were already known for their cattle business, and the Baileys were soon to build up a resort that would be a favorite vacation spot for all the Southland. **Theodore O. Bailey** brought his wife and five children -- Nannie, Hodgie, Clinton, Milton, and Orlando -- in 1887 to live on the mountain. Their youngest, Elizabeth, was born on the mountain. Theodore was the youngest of seven boys. The family was descended from a fighter who had come over with Lafayette. In the Civil War, three of the brothers had fought on the side of the Union, four for the South. Born in Kentucky, Theodore had moved to Illinois, then to Long Beach, California, then to Mesa Grande where his brother Newton lived, then discovering Smith Mountain, he moved once more, and homesteaded in the beautiful valley still widely known as "Bailey's."

They found the valley rich in soil and water. They raised potatoes. "All they had to do," says Mrs. Milton Bailey, "was lift the sod, put in a potato, and they harvested the largest, finest potatoes in the country. They sold potatoes, lived on potatoes, in those first years."

With the help of Indian labor, they started their adobe house. This one-story home was almost finished when fiesta time arrived. This fiesta down at Pala has for years been the great annual event for the Indians. It was when the Baileys were building, and nothing could persuade them to delay one day and finish the house. They threw up the south wall and left. The Baileys moved in. It rained, softening the unseasoned wall. It fell. "Fortunately," says Mrs. Bailey, "it fell out, not in, or they would have been short their three little boys who were sleeping in that room." The fallen wall was replaced by a wooden wall, and later a second story was added.



It was well-known for many years as "Bailey Lodge." It is the home of Dr. Milton Bailey's widow, Mrs. Adalind Bailey.

Difficult as it was to get up the steep grades, people came for miles around by horse and wagon to enjoy the woods and the genial hospitality and fun at "Bailey's."

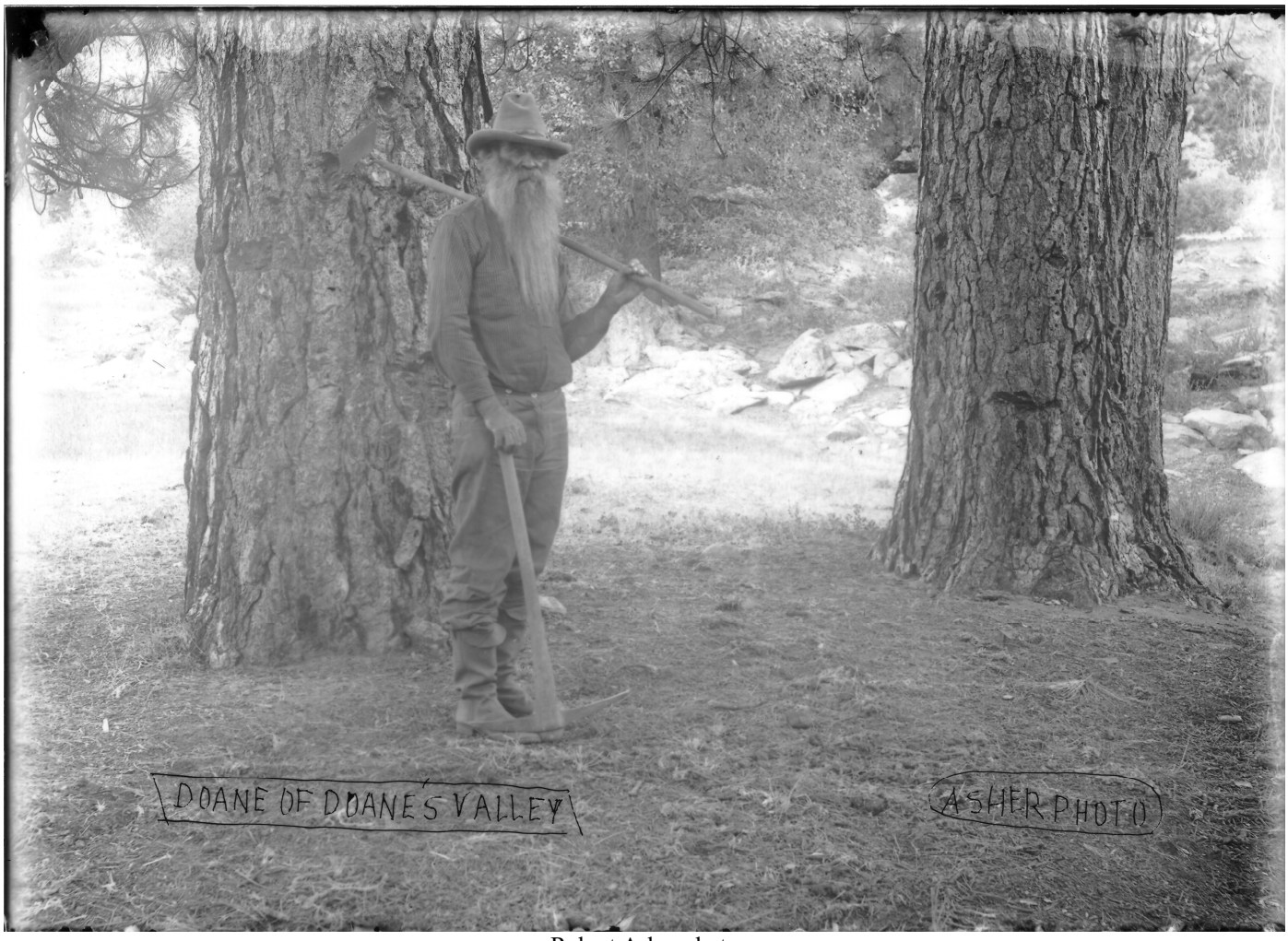
"We never intended to have a hotel," says Mrs. Hodgie Bailey Salmons, "but people kept coming up and wanting to stay and eat, so what could we do?"

Theodore Bailey on the porch, undated

GEORGE EDWIN DOANE

George E. Doane shares honors with Nathan Harrison as the mountain's most colorful character.

Before he came up to his government claim he had already won the distinction throughout the county of being "the hairiest person ever known in these parts." Quoting San Diego History Center files, Doane is remembered in his early twenties pridefully displaying in the old village of San Luis Rey a glossy brown beard “as big as a pillow. It extended lengthwise from the bushiest of eyebrows to below the belt. Nothing of his features was visible except a narrow band of forehead, a glint of blue-gray eyes and the bridge and tip of his nose."

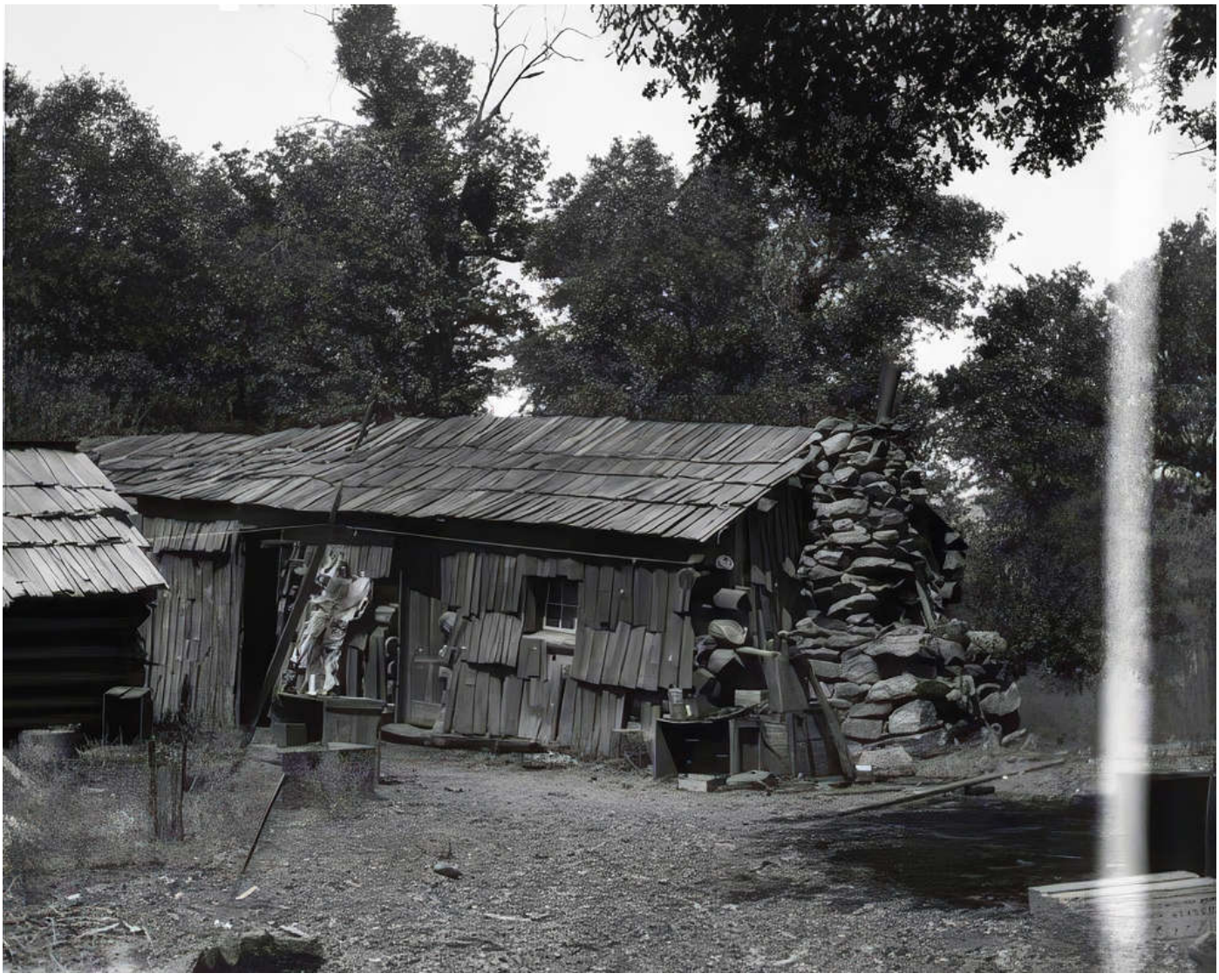


Robert Asher photo

A well-educated man from San Francisco, he came and, with his mother Nancy, took up the land known as Upper Doane and Lower Doane, now included in State Park. Doane's second quality of distinction was his love of "schoolmarms." He would visit the schools, "looking in at the windows and scaring the children out of their wits." He is said to have proposed to every teacher who ever taught on the mountain in those early days. There is a letter on file in the San Diego History Center which Doane wrote to the County Superintendent of Schools when asked to serve on the school board of this district:

Mr. Hugh J. Baldwin
Dear sir:
Your March fifth letter has just been received
I hope by my answer you'll not be aggrieved
Thanks for the tender offer of school trustee
I long to be great but would rather be free
You must over-rate my mental condition
I'm sure not the one for such a position
Because my old heart is too big for my head
Although it's too small for a schoolmarm to wed

When I meet one my heart tries to thump down my breast
I think more of her than the whole mob of the rest
If six should all write and apply for the school
I would give it to all. I'm just such a fool.
Whether I'm stupid or whether I'm smart
My head has no chance in a race for my heart
I hope you won't think this is said to amuse
And beg you will pardon and kindly excuse
Your friend, G. E. DOANE



Doane's cabin, 1904 Ed Davis photo

Doane's cabin stood where the lower ranger's house now stands, built in the early 1880s.

Doane's romances finally ended in advertising for a wife, marrying a sixteen-year-old girl from Louisiana, and bringing her and her negro maid to his valley to live. [PB: the widowed mother, sister, and brother of Doane's wife Irene Hayes came as well]. By then, the famous beard was gray.

WILLIAM E. BOUGHER

Boucher Hill, with its fire lookout commanding a view far beyond the bounds of San Diego County, commemorates the name of William E. Bougher (though spelt differently), pioneer of the west end of Smith Mountain. There is a grave above the road into State Park, with a fairly new marker: William Pearson.

William Pearson, 1870s-1880s willispa, ancestry.com

William Pearson had homesteaded in [1892], to raise bees. His daughter, Laura (Mrs. John) Reddy, and family came soon after and homesteaded at the north, beyond Doane; his son-in-law, William E. Bougher, and family made their home to the west of him.

[PB: Marion Beckler wrote that William H. Pearson's arrival year on Palomar Mountain was 1902 but that is incorrect since Pearson died on Palomar Mountain on December 8, 1898; she likely meant 1892. His son-in-law William E. Bougher homesteaded 163.09 acres on Palomar Mountain, proving up on July 27, 1897, so Bougher had moved onto his Palomar land five years earlier in 1892.]

Bougher built his house of logs and of lumber from the sawmill in Pedley Valley. He made his own shakes, two feet long, for the roof. Water had to be hauled from a spring in barrels on a

sled. He built a cistern to fill with snow and supplement the spring water. Having built his home, he bought another 160 acres and planted an apple orchard.

His son, Ernest, had been born in Burbank. His daughter Ina was born on the mountain. [PB: William E. Bougher's son Earnest was born in 1890, and his daughter Ina was born in 1893.]

When the West Grade road was built [PB: Nate Harrison Grade], William Bougher helped build it. In 1905, his wife's health failing, Bougher moved to Rincon, and sold his ranch soon after.

William Pearson had already met his tragic death, killed by a falling tree [PB: on December 8, 1898]. Beside him lay a ten day old grandchild, son of his daughter Laura.

[PB: William H. Pearson (1832-1898) married Nancy Pickering (1829-1874) and their children were Cerilda/Serilla Jane (1853-), Albert Clarkson (1855-1914), Loretta Maria (1857-1906), and Phineas William (1860-), Arlauda Edgar (1861-1870), Lena May (1862-1948), Lewis Harvey (1865-1951), Lee W. (1866-1946), Laura Belle (1868-1936), Julius Levi (1868-) and Ida W. (1870-1931). His second wife was Abigail Caroline George (1841-1920), whom he married in 1876.

Ida W. Pearson (1870-1931) married William Ellsworth Bougher (1863-1956) with children Ernest W. (1890-1987), Ina E. (1893-1964), and Alvin Eugene (1909/1910-1993). Ina E. Bougher married Harry T. Mabrey (1892-1928).

Laura Belle Pearson (1868-1936) married John Richard Reddy (1863-1921) with children Loda May (1887-1967), Walter Irven (1889-1974) and Xenia (1894-death after 1958) and then married second husband John Nerz in 1923. Laura Pearson's second son laying beside William Pearson's grave died shortly after his 1898 birth.

Walter Irvin Reddy married Pauline Wilhelmina Retzlaff (1895-1973) with child Elvyn Edwin Reddy (1915-2002). Elvyn Edwin Reddy married Verta Inez Purdin (1916-1984), with children Stephen and Janice. Marion Beckler wrote that William H. Pearson and his son-in-law John Reddy had homesteaded. There is no homestead record for William H. Pearson or John Reddy so perhaps they didn't prove up after the required five years residency, or had sold the land by then, or did not homestead.]

Bougher House on Boucher Hill, cistern at right Bonnie Phelps photo

The John Reddys, with their children, Walter I. and Loda, moved from the mountain (by 1900) by wagon, first to Ukiah, then Turlock and to Canada, where John Reddy died. Walter Reddy made his home in Chowchilla, California, and his son Edwin lives in Modesto, with his wife and children, Stephen and Janice.

[PB: Marion Beckler originally wrote that the Reddys moved from Palomar Mountain in 1906 and omits their daughter Xenia who was born in 1894 and tallied in the Palomar Mountain school census reports for 1896-1897 and 1897-1898. In the 1900 U.S. Census, John R. Reddy, his wife Laura and their children are recorded in Ukiah, California on June 13, 1900.]

William Bougher died in Escondido, in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ina Mabrey, at the age of ninety-two. The house he built on the mountain has been preserved by State Park as a landmark. One of the Southland's most important fire lookouts perpetuates his name.

SCHOOL DAYS...

Malava School District: When George Dyche's children and the children of Joe Damron arrived at school age they made the required number for the opening of school. The Malava School District was formed, and a log schoolhouse was built. But, prior to the establishment of this public school, the residents had looked out for the education of their children.

[PB: The Malava school opened in the 1877/1878 school year. A child arriving at school age would be five years old. The three George Dyche children were older than five when the Malava school opened in 1877. Joe Damron is probably John Shultz Damron (1818-1905) and Sallie Daugherty (1828-1911) who had five children between five and eighteen years old in 1877.

The Malava School District on Palomar Mountain started in the fall of 1877, which is considered the 1878 school year; the San Diego News noted that Malava had a teacher vacancy amongst the San Diego County teacher listings from November 15 to December 28, 1877 (vacant teacher position for Malava noted in San Diego News, November 15, 1877, page 2, column 4; following issues until San Diego News, December 28, 1877, page 2, column 4). The first Malava teacher Samuel Alfred Paden (1850 – 1898) started in December 1877 (San Diego School Records, R2.68. Folder: Malava 1877-1903. San Diego History Center Archives.) In Beckler's sentence after "log schoolhouse was built", she wrote "and Mr. Snow of Love Valley was hired as teacher." Edwin Tileston Snow (1863-1888) was a teacher at Malava in 1885/1886 and would have been too young in 1877/1878 (San Diego School Records, R2.68. Folder: Malava 1877-1903. San Diego History Center Archives.).]

Several homesteaders had located in the valley now known as Pedley. Among them were the William "Billie" Whitlocks. Mrs. Whitlock, formerly Mrs. Strong, had two daughters, Hannah and Anice. She, with her husband and children, had come west in a covered wagon from Indian Territory. Strong had run a Spanish dagger into his knee, had suffered infection, and died when they reached Downey. Here Mrs. Strong had married Whitlock and moved up onto Smith Mountain. Hannah and Anice Strong received their first schooling in Pedley Valley. It is probable that the Andrew Cook children attended the school, though this branch of the Cook family did not remain long on the mountain.

[PB: Sarah Elizabeth Jones Strong married Noah B. Strong and then married William Whitlock. Noah B. Strong died in 1875. There were three longer-lived Strong daughters and a son. Two of their daughters are Hannah Emmeline Strong, born 1862, and Anice 'Anna' Strong, born 1865. 1880 U.S. Census lists her as Annie Strong. 1880 U.S. Census lists William Whitlock, age 26, born 1854, in Texas; wife Sarah Whitlock, age 34, with children Rachael Whitlock, age 3; Lenora Whitlock, 9 months; Annie Strong, age 14, step-daughter; Fanny Strong, age 10, step-daughter; James Strong, age 8, step-son. The 1900 U.S. Census lists William L. Whitlock and Sarah Whitlock with household members Amy L. Whitlock, age 18; Walter W. Whitlock, age 15; Sarah E. Whitlock, age 13. Jefferson Madison Cook did not have a son Andrew Cook; the likeliest son who was a shorter-term resident on Palomar Mountain than his brothers would be William H. Cook.]

The Malava School, built in the 1870s, was east of Mendenhall Valley and northeast of Dyche Valley. The original log building was moved to make an addition to the George Cook home and a new schoolhouse was built. Lumber for it was hauled up (Joseph) Smith's road -- dubbed "The Slide" -- by George and Hiram Cook.

[PB: The new Malava schoolhouse was built in 1886, assuming it was built after the school bond election in November 1885 (San Diego Union, October 31, 1885, page 8, column 5).]

At that time the attendance averaged nine or ten children. There were the older Mendenhall children, the (James) Frazier boys, Charles and Manning, Ida and Susie Cook, Emma Barker, and Emanuel Dyche. There was no school at Warner's so, in those first years, the Helms children came up the mountain for school, staying with the Cooks.

[PB: Beckler has Emanuel Dyche's first name as Manuel, and she referred to the Helms children as Hellums. Jefferson Cook's daughter from his first marriage, Rosanna "Rosa" Cook, evidently visited and/or lived on Palomar Mountain for some time; she met Chatham 'Chet' Helm (1821 – 1905) of nearby Warner Springs and then married him on September 30, 1873. They had two sons Chatham E. (1875 – 1931) and James Montgomery (1879 – 1953) and two daughters Parthenia Elizabeth (1874 – 1939) and Josephine (1878 – 1957) by the time the 1880 U.S. Census recorded them in the Agua Caliente Township adjacent to Palomar Mountain. The 1900 U.S. Census recorded an additional son Stonewall Jackson (1880 – 1950) and daughter Kasiah L. (1882 –), both likely born in the Agua Caliente Township. Chatham and Rosa Helm sold their ranch in 1889 and were living in Downey by the time of the 1900 U.S. Census. (The Helm Clan of Warner and Verruga. On Memory's Back Trail: The History of Ramona and the Backcountry of San Diego County. Charles Darrell Beck. 2nd edition. John Whiteman, 2018. pp. 127-129).

Emma Barker's actual name was Emma Littlefield, the daughter of James A. Littlefield and Charlotte Cook, the firstborn child of Jefferson Madison Cook and his second wife Lucinda, who lived on Palomar Mountain. James Barker lived in Barker Valley with Charlotte Cook Littlefield, their daughter Charlotte Barker, and Charlotte Cook Littlefield's children from her preceding marriage to James Littlefield including Emma. Emma Littlefield used the Barker last name throughout her life; she married Louis Salmons, who referred to her as Emma Barker, and is identified as Emma Barker in the U.S. Census and newspaper stories.]

In later years Malava School joined with Warner's to keep up attendance, having school in Malava until Christmas, and down at Warner's for the second half of the year.

Edwin LeRoy Richards, mentioned by Mary Rockwood Peet in her 1949 book, "San Pasqual, a Crack in the Hills" as a teacher in San Pasqual in the early days, completed the school term of 1879 or 1880.

[PB: It was probably the school term ending in June 1879. On June 16, 1880, the 1880 U.S. Census records Edwin LeRoy Richards (1854 – 1923), occupation schoolteacher, living in San Pasqual with his wife and daughter, and he was the teacher there in September 1881 (San Diego Union, September 18, 1881, page 3, column 2).]

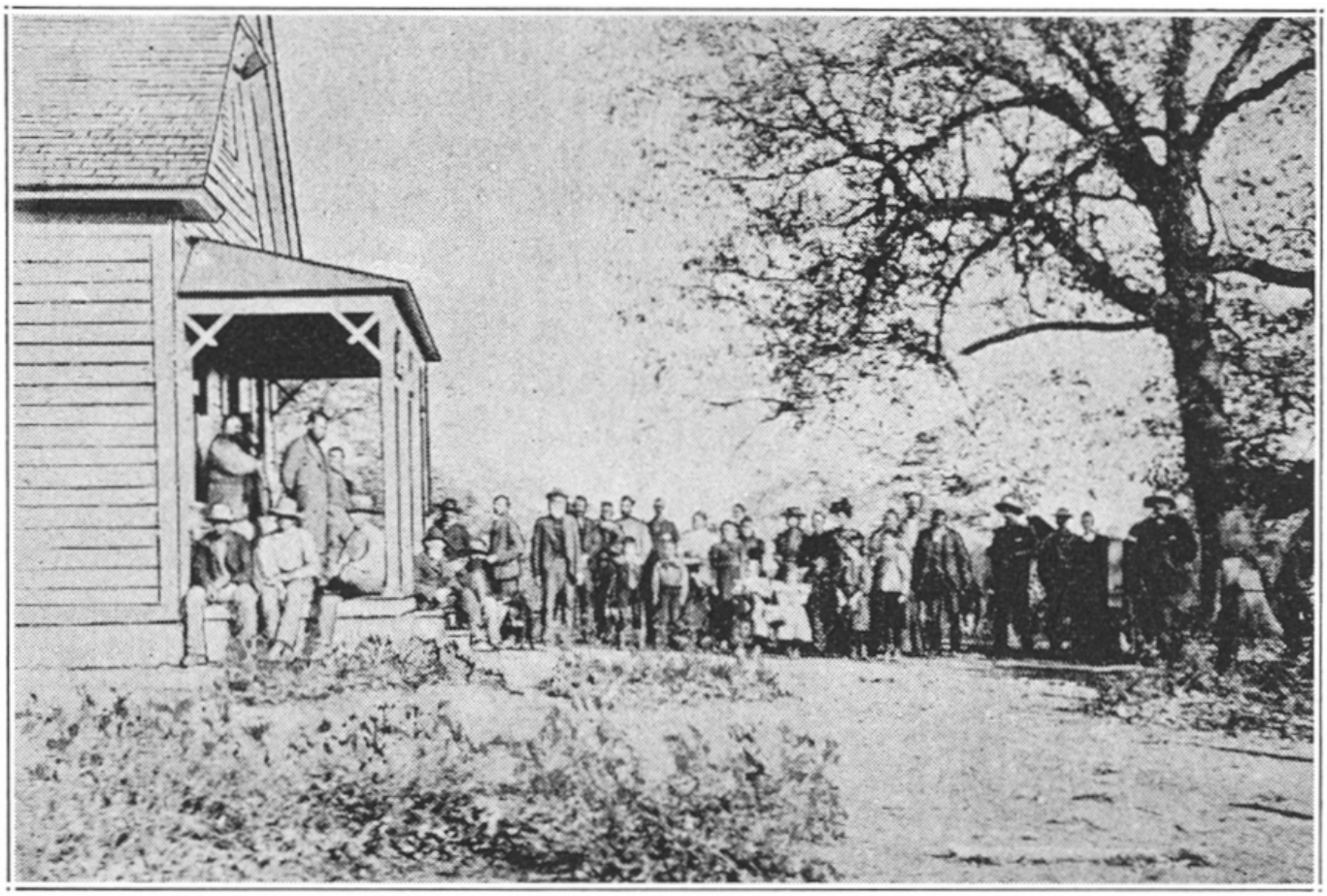
MRS. AMY C. V. SCHAEGGS.

Mrs. Amy C.V. Schaeggs, undated

Mrs. Amy C.V. Schaeggs taught for several years in the old log schoolhouse. The first teacher in the new school was Mr. Daniel B. McGinness, then Ira Cyrus Titchworth, remembered for having an organ which he brought to school.

George W. Ferris, undated

George W. Ferris also taught here, and Bertie Robinson and Sue Justice.



Election Day at Malava Schoolhouse, about 1900 Mary Mendenhall Knox photo

[PB: Mrs. Amy C.V. Schaeggs (1845-) was the Malava teacher reported in November 1882 (San Diego Sun, November 18, 1882, page 4, column 1); Beckler has her name as Mrs. Skaggs.

Beckler's teacher chronology with respect to the new Malava school is wrong and incomplete. The San Diego Union reported an election for issuing bonds to build a Malava schoolhouse was to be held on November 7, 1885 (San Diego Union, October 31, 1885, page 8, column 5). Daniel B. McGinness (1856 – 1887). Beckler has his name as D.B. McGinnis… was the Malava teacher for the school year finishing June 1885; he had left Malava and was teaching in San Marcos by May 1886; Edwin Tileston Snow (1863-1888) was the Malava teacher by May 1886 (San Diego Union, June 18, 1885, page 3, column 3; San Diego Union, May 12, 1886. page 3, column 4; Daily San Diegan, May 10, 1886, page 3, column 4).

Ira Cyrus Titchworth (1841-1930) opened the Malava school for the session starting July 8, 1889 (San Diego School Records, R2.68. Folder: Malava 1877-1903. San Diego History Center Archives).

According to Winbert Fink, a Malava teacher "was a Mr. Ferris, father of the druggists whose store at the corner of Market st. and Fifth ave. long has been a familiar landmark" (San Diego Evening Tribune, July 16, 1937, page 14, column 2). Beckler refers to him as "Mr. Ferris of San Diego's Ferris Drug Company." The Ferris & Ferris Drugstore at Fifth Ave. and Market St. in San Diego was founded by Alda M. Ferris and Carlisle "Carl" Iverson Ferris on November 20, 1887 (San Diego Union, November 22, 1947, page 9, column 3). Their father was George W. Ferris (1842-1896).

Miss Bertie Robinson opened school in the Cook district (Malava) in June 1894 (Escondido Times, June 14, 1894, page 3, column 5). Bertie Robinson is listed living at Nellie in the Directory of San Diego City and County 1897, likely at the Malava school. Beckler has her first name as Birdie. Her full name was Laura Alberta Robinson (1873-1945).

Sue Justice took the San Diego County teachers' examination in January 1893, so she taught at Malava sometime thereafter (Escondido Times-Advocate, January 12, 1893, page 3, column 3). She was granted a primary grade teacher certificate in July 1896, and taught in Vista the next school year. Her full name was Susan Idolia Justice (1874 – 1966).]

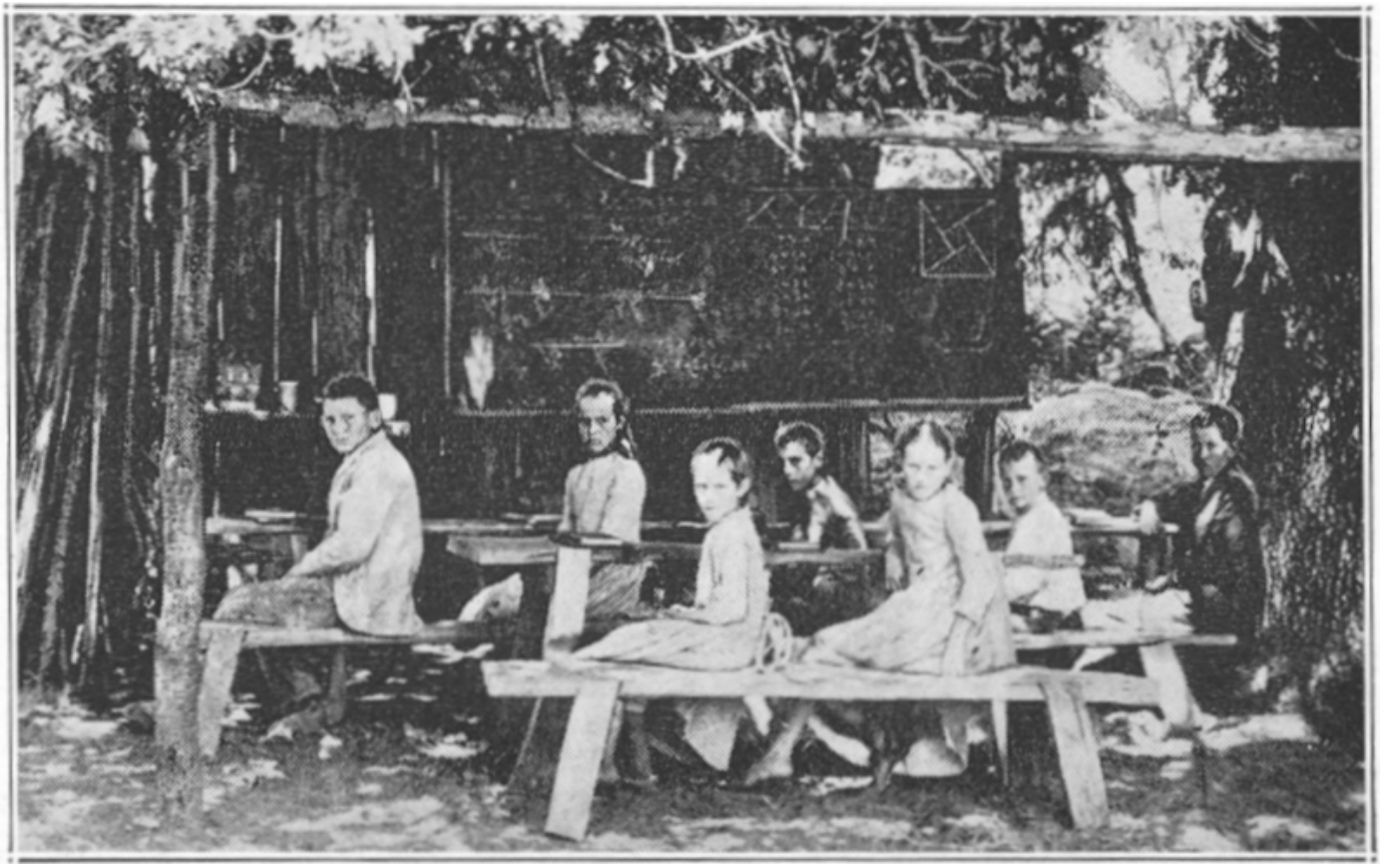
There is a story of a cowboy from a ranch near Warner's falling in love with one of the teachers. When she refused him he went and tied his lariat about his neck, threw it over the branch of an oak, and spurred his horse... He was found a few days later.

George Cook married Hannah Strong and Hiram married Anice. Hiram and Anice lived in the Seburn House. The East Grade used to pass it, winding through the apple orchard, much larger than when the Seburn's had owned it. Mrs. Beulah Gates of Escondido is the daughter of Hiram and Anice Cook, and has supplied much information about the Malava School.

[PB: Beckler spelled it Seibern. Mrs. Beulah Gates full name is Beulah Mae Cook Gates.]

Palomar School District: In those days of horse-and-buggy travel, distances over the mountain roads seemed very great. The Bailey's found the distance to the Malava School much too great, and a school on their end of the mountain was applied for. So, in 1891, the Palomar School District was formed. An open-air school was started on Sunday School Flats, above Doane Valley to the east. There were the Bailey boys, Clinton and Milton, Bert and Minnie May Todd from Cedar Grove, and the Bates children, Teresa, George, and Annabell. The teacher was Josie Breedlove.

[PB: On May 6, 1891, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors granted the petition of Theo. O. Bailey and others to form the Palomar school district (San Diego Union, May 6, 1891, page 2, column 1). Beckler wrote that the Palomar School District was formed in 1890. Miss Josie Breedlove filed a school report on June 8, 1891, stating there were nine pupils enrolled (Escondido Times Advocate, February 16, 1975, page 14, column 1). The first classes were held in a tent under a tree near the east line of the Doane property (Escondido Times Advocate, February 16, 1975, page 14, column 1). Beckler identifies the teacher as Miss Josie Breedlove; at the time, she was married to Charles Stewart Morris and her married name was Josephine 'Josie' Breedlove Morris (1868 – 1941).]



First School in Palomar School District, 1891 Hodgie Salmons photo

[PB: The children of Solomon Todd (1837-1909) and Sarah Rodgers mentioned by Beckler are George W. Todd (1877-1945), and Minnie May Todd Leach (1880-1955), with Bert Todd mentioned by Beckler probably Minnie's next older brother George W. Todd. The children of Francis Marion Bates (1853-1925) and Johanna Enstine Hoyer mentioned by Beckler are George Edwin (1879-1929), Mary Teresa (1880-1921), and Annabell (1882-).]

This school was soon moved into the adobe house of "Lord" Allerton at Iron Spring.

Then Enos T. Mendenhall gave land one-half mile from the spring and a schoolhouse was built. "It was built by the residents themselves," says Mrs. Mary Mendenhall Knox, "at a cost of $800." It is the only early school still standing.

[PB: Eloise Perkins writes that Enos Mendenhall "deeded two acres to the district, remarking that he wanted a good school for his grandchildren to attend. The plot was about a mile west of Iron Spring…" (Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, November 23, 1967, page 22, column 1). The Palomar school was built in 1895, with Palomar residents doing most of the work; at first the school had only one room but later an addition was added for a library (Escondido Times Advocate, October 13, 1965, page 8, column 1). Beckler said "This [Palomar] schoolhouse was built at about the time the new school was built over in Malava District" which seems incorrect. The San Diego Union reported an election for issuing bonds to build a Malava schoolhouse was to be held on November 7, 1885 (San Diego Union, October 31, 1885, page 8, column 5). The new Malava schoolhouse would have been built sometime thereafter but would have been much earlier than 1895 when the Palomar schoolhouse was built.]

Palomar school showing library addition, c1903 Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson photo

Palomar School in 1899. Children on the horse are Loda and Walter Reddy. Back row: Miss Edna Caroline Cutler, the teacher, and Mabel Hindorff. Second row, left to right: Elizabeth Bailey, Mary Mendenhall, Herbert Smith, Elmer Johnson, Clarence Smith, George Mendenhall and Madge Smith. Third row, left to right: Milton Bailey, Orlando Bailey and Lemuel Clark. Front: Ed. (Hap) Mendenhall. [PB: Smiths are children of Marion Smith, of Smith & Douglass Hotel, now Silvercrest.] Escondido History Center photo from Margie Mendenhall

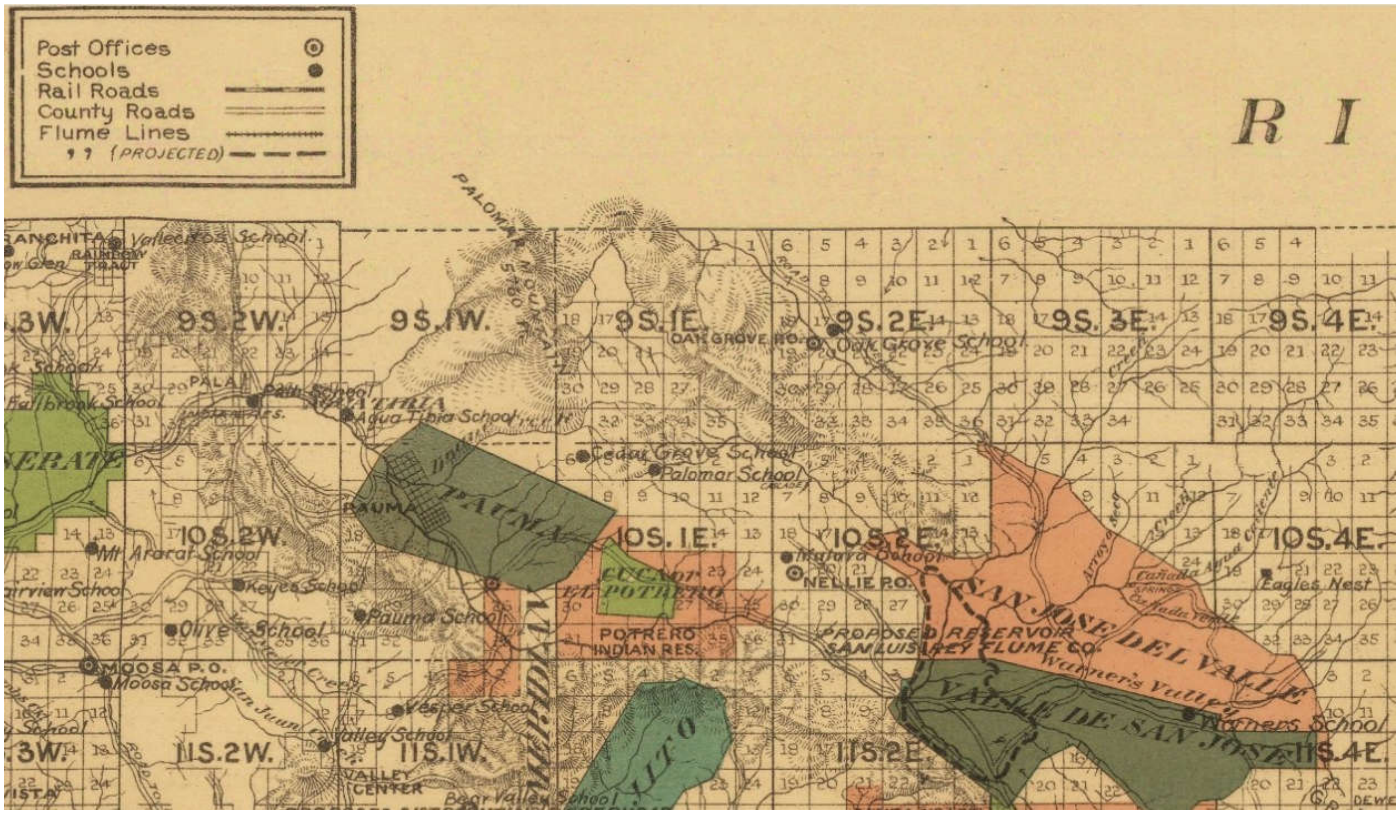
[PB: Miss Edna Cutler (1874 – 1968) was the Palomar teacher reported in August 1898 and May 1899 (Oceanside Blade Tribune, August 13, 1898, page 3, column 3; Oceanside Blade Tribune, May 24, 1919, page 4, column 4). The school photo above in Beckler's book is incorrectly dated as 1902 and has Edna Caroline Cutler's name as Miss Cutler.]

[In later years] the schools had difficulties keeping up their enrollment. The Mendenhall children began helping out the enrollment of both schools.

[PB: Beckler writes "The schools had difficulties keeping up their enrollment. Malava's was down to five when Ulric, oldest son of George Cook, reached the age of four. To make the necessary sixth child for the opening of school, Ulric was "drafted." He felt very important!" Thomas Ulric Cook lived from 1879 to 1957, so Ulric Cook was age four in 1883. However the 1882 San Diego County school census reported 22 students at Malava, and the 1884 census reported 25. So the Malava school being down to five students occurred much later.]

Cedar Grove School District: And now the people of the mountain's west end demanded a school. They got it. Cedar Grove District was established. School was opened in the Pearson home. There were Ina and Ernest Bougher, Walter and Loda Reddy, Clarence and Madge Smith whose mother had died and they were living with the Clarks, and Lemuel Clark. Mrs. Nellie Virginia Clark was the teacher. The Clark home was on the present site of the State Park Picnic Grounds.

[PB: The Cedar Grove school district on Palomar was formed in December 1898 (San Diego Union, December 6, 1898, page 5, column 1). Miss Nellie V. Clark is listed as a teacher in the Directory of San Diego City and County 1897 and in that directory for 1899-1900 and 1901-1902. Nellie V. Clark was the Cedar Grove teacher reported in July 1899 and 1900 (San Diego Union, July 14, 1899, page 6, column 1. San Diego Union, July 18, 1900, page 5, column 1). Mrs. Loella 'Nellie' Virginia Johnson Clark (1856 – 1939)]



excerpt of c1900 Official Map of San Diego County
showing locations of Malava, Palomar, and Cedar Grove Schools

Later a schoolhouse was built on the Solomon Todd place, now Cedar Grove Camp. But, even with three schools, some of the mountain children had quite a distance to come to school. Walter and Loda Reddy rode horseback from over the ridge at the north of Doane Valley. They were terrified at wild cats and mountain lions, and they had to get off their horse to open and close gates!

[PB: Beckler situated the Cedar Grove school "on the old Todd place, bordering the old Hayes place, which was later sold by the Olivers to the State park" (Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate, September 28, 1951, page 7, column 1).]

Eventually, to keep Cedar Grove open, pupils were imported from the Children's Home in San Diego. And now the Mendenhall children did their bit by all the schools. One year Mary, finishing the term in Palomar District, went and boarded with Clark's to finish the Cedar Grove term, then went another month at Malava till it closed for the summer. George Mendenhall was drafted for school at the age of four.

[PB: Beckler writes: "George Mendenhall, like Ulric Cook, was drafted for school at the age of four" but it appears Ulric Cook wasn't needed to be drafted at age four as discussed above. The Malava and Palomar school districts were combined in May 1903 (Oceanside Blade Tribune, May 9, 1903, page 4, column 2).]

The last pupils in those early schools were George and Annie Mendenhall and Clarence Smith. So many families had moved from the mountain that there were no schools for a number of years.

During the 1920s Carl Mendenhall was living in Pedley Valley and operating the sawmill. To accommodate his growing family a school was opened at the head of Pedley Valley with Miss Marion E. Dannals of Coronado as teacher. There was no more school on Palomar for another decade.

[PB: Marion Emma Dannals (1876 – 1981). Beckler has her name as Marian Daniels. According to Leona Mendenhall Bloomer, this Pedley Valley school opened in the sawmill cookhouse as a branch of the Pala school, with Mrs. Daniels as teacher, for the school age children of the Everett Clyde Linthicums and the Mendenhalls. In November 1922, the Linthicum's house in Camp Sites burned, and with an average attendance of less than five, the school closed after three months' operation. (Memories of the Mendenhalls on Palomar Mountain and later. Leona Mendenhall Bloomer, undated; Escondido Times-Advocate, November 15, 1922, page 1, column 4); Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, August 10, 1950, page 9, column 7]

When the construction work at the Observatory, and the building of the Highway to the Stars, brought families to the mountain, school was opened at the Observatory, with Mrs. Harley Marshall as teacher. With the end of the construction, this school closed.

[PB: The San Diego City Directory for 1937 and 1938 lists Mrs. Mary S. Marshall (1904 – 2006) as the teacher for the Palomar Emergency School; her husband is Harley C. Marshall, listed in the 1937 directory as the manager of the Palomar Mountain Lodge and in the 1938 directory as an employee of California Institute of Technology. (San Diego Directory Co's San Diego (California) City Directory 1937 including Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Escondido, La Jolla, La Mesa, National City, Oceanside, and All Other Towns and Postoffices Throughout the County. San Diego: San Diego Directory Co., 1937). Plus same title and publisher for 1938]

By 1947, children of the Observatory staff, and children of State Park Rangers had reached school age. And over in Dyche Valley there were the seven Jameson children, Dr. Moroni "Morey" Jameson having bought the Louis Salmons ranch. School was opened, with Mrs. Morey Jameson as teacher.

[PB: Beckler has Jameson's name as Mauri Jameson. His wife was Mrs. Adelina Lillian Hall Jameson (1905 – 2003). Beckler has her as Mrs. Mauri Jameson.]

School was opened in this building in 1948. It had been the mess hall for Observatory construction crews, and is now the recreation hall for the Palomar Mountain Club and for the Children's Bible Class.
[PB: This photo was taken circa 1949, with John David Mendenhall in the photo. Marion Beckler was the teacher, and also drove the school bus; in her papers, she notes this photo was taken in the second year of this school.]

The three old-time mountain school districts had lapsed, long ago, and become part of the Pauma district. And the old-time horseback or "shanks' ponies" [PB: use one's own legs] means of getting to school had been superseded by the automobile, with the teacher transporting the children from homes which in the old days had seemed so very widely separated.

Cal Tech donated the land for the present school, west of the Observatory grounds. The new school building was dedicated in September 1951 [PB: with the author Mrs. Marion Evangeline Floyd Beckler (1889 – 1978) as teacher]. Members of Palomar's pioneer families attended the dedication program and contributed colorful reminiscences of early days. Mary Mendenhall Knox, telling about her

school days, said, "We would start with the flag salute, sing America, have a chapter from the Bible and The Lord's Prayer...Spanking was done in those days."

Mrs. Hodgie Bailey Salmons recalled the names of some of the teachers... Alfreda Johnson, Josie Breedlove, Miss Anna Livingston... Mrs. Milton Bailey -- who calls herself "an old-timer only by marriage" -- accompanied the singing of the song that used to be sung at campfire gatherings of Bailey Resort: "Palomar My Mountain Home." Abel Davis, son of James Davis who was in partnership with Joseph Smith "raising hogs on acorns," enlivened the evening with a bear story. (There were bears on Smith Mountain.) Included in the enrollment of the new school was the great-great-grandson of Enos T. Mendenhall, John David Mendenhall.

[PB: Alfreda Johnson was probably Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson (1881 – 1967). Miss Josie Breedlove was Mrs. Josephine 'Josie' Breedlove Morris. In addition to other locations in San Diego County, Miss Anna Livingston taught adjacent to Palomar Mountain at Mesa Grande/Bloomdale in the 1903/1904 school year (Anna M. Livingston taught at Viejas starting in August 1895. San Diego Union, July 25, 1895, page 5, column 4; AML taught at Valley Center, Vesper district starting in August 1897. San Diego Sun, August 28, 1897, page 4, column 1; AML taught at National City starting August 1901. National City Record, August 1, 1901, page 6, column 2; AML taught at Mesa Grande or Bloomdale (Creek) starting August 1903. San Diego Evening Tribune, August 15, 1903, page 5, column 4. San Diego Union, December 22, 1903, page 4, column 2; AML teaching at Jamul or Lyons. Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate, October 6, 1905, page 4, column 3. San Diego Union, June 23, 1906, page 12, column 1. San Diego Evening Tribune, August 11, 1906, page 5, column 4)]

TWO POST OFFICES...

After the Nellie Post Office was moved to Bailey's the east end people found it a long way to go for their mail. So they petitioned and got their own post office on December 10, 1896, at the Jessee place, in Dyche Valley

[PB: Beckler had the date wrong as November 6, 1896 (San Francisco Call. December 11, 1896, page 3, column 4)].

George Cook had the mail contract in 1897 and James Frazier in 1898. By then the mail was coming from San Diego via Escondido to Rincon. From Rincon the carrier brought it on horseback up the Trujillo Trail [PB: south trail; S6, Highway to Stars area]. Eventually the Nellie and Jessee mails came up together to Nellie where the Jessee carrier picked it up. By 1904 so many people had moved away the Jessee Post Office was discontinued.

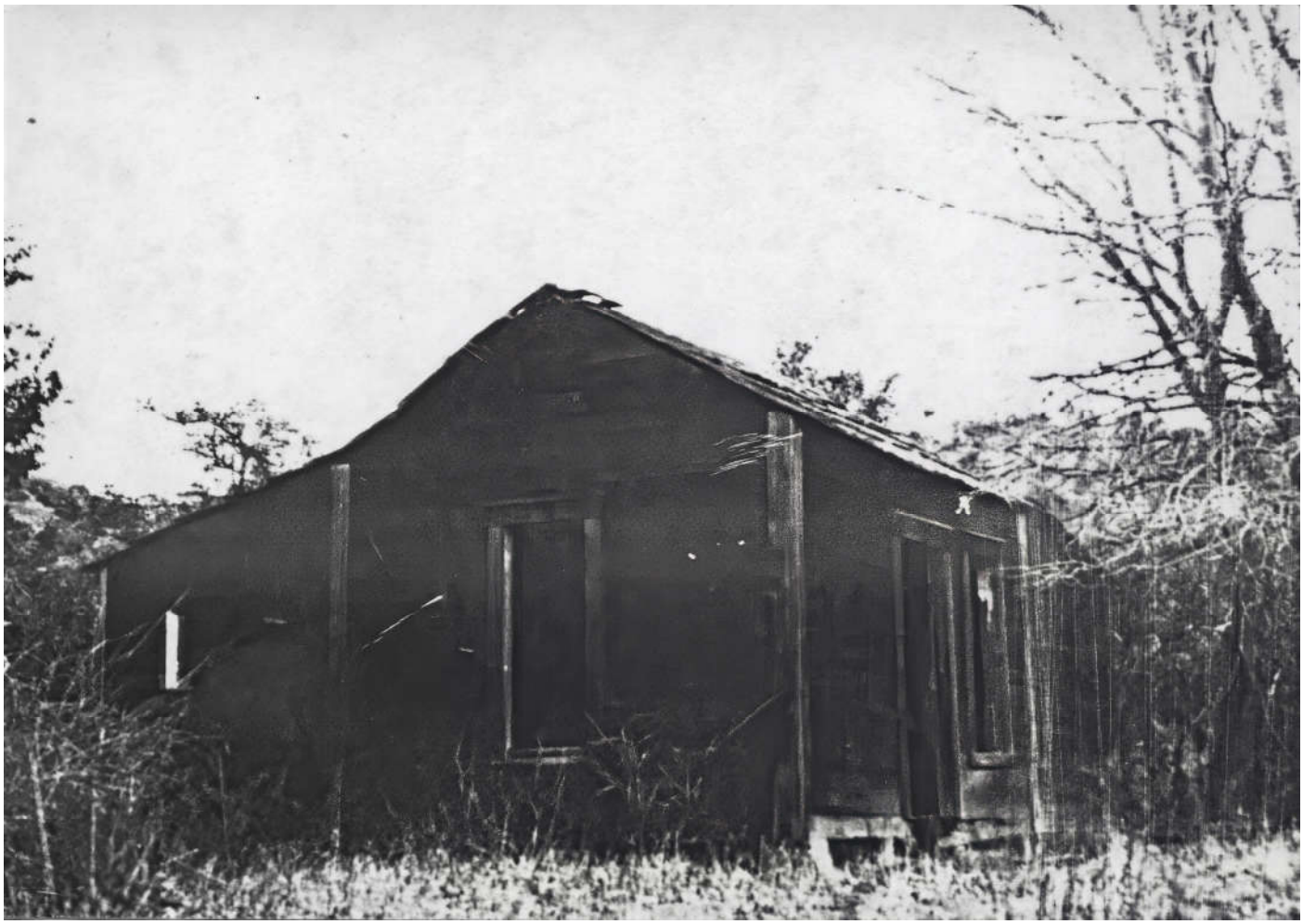
Two people connected with this Jessee Post Office stand out in the Palomar story: the strange preacher, William W. Jessee, and the tragic Maria Frazier.

[PB: William W. Jessee (1862-1933) and his wife Harriet Louise Seals Jessee (1864-1951)]

William W. Jessee had gained a wide reputation through the west and midwest for his summer camp meetings. He had built a pleasant camp and attracted many people to his "Holiness Meetings." But, though his preaching may have been good his practices seem not to have been so good. "At one of his summer camp meetings," says Mrs. Louis Salmons -- always enjoying

a laugh over the old times -- "Jessee raised funds to start an orphanage. When the camp meeting was over and his patrons had gone home he drove to San Diego with the funds. What he came home with wasn't hungry orphans but a nice load of potatoes."

Then it was learned that William Jessee was selling Hereford calves in Los Angeles. Jessee wasn't raising Herefords. Mendenhalls were. So Sylvester Mendenhall went to Jessee to ask him where he was getting them. "Herefords?" the preacher said, benignly, "The Lord is providing them." "He is not providing Mendenhall Herefords!" Mendenhall retorted. He called a meeting of the mountain residents. William Jessee was offered a price for his place and so many hours to leave.



Frazier sisters' cabin, circa 1929 Ed Davis photo

On the Highway to the Stars, a few curves below the spring, is Frazier Point. One of the buildings still remains of the Frazier sisters' winter home below the snow line. From here, each spring, they would trek back to their ranch at the east end of Mendenhall Valley, with their stock, a distance of nearly ten miles. Maria was tall, gaunt, weathered from hard work, preferred to walk rather than ride her horse. Miss Lizzie was crippled from arthritis. After the painful trip back to the home ranch she would resume her housekeeping, moving about on a chair, while Miss Maria attended to the outside. There is still the floor of the house, and the stove where Miss Lizzie made biscuits and other good things remembered by the Mendenhalls

as children. ...And there is still the old apple orchard on the hillside, and the old well, filled in -- the unmarked grave of Maria Frazier.

[PB: Various spellings of Frazier in newspapers and records: Frazier, Frazer, Frasier. In newspapers and records, Maria Frazier (1855/1857/1862-1918) can be Mariah or Mary; Lizzie Frazier (1857-1918) can be Elizabeth or Lizzie Frazier. Their brother on Palomar with them was James Frazier (1838/1839/1840-1913)]

In the early nineties James Frazier had sent east for his mother and sisters to come and live with him. But before they reached here he had married a widow with two sons. The new arrivals went to live in the old Wolf cabin, then they homesteaded in Barker Valley. When James Frazier died they moved into his house at the east end of Mendenhall Valley. At the time of her coming to the mountain Maria Frazier was a handsome young woman, with personality and sparkle. There was a romance and she would have married, but Miss Lizzie opposed it.

James Frazier, July 14, 1906 Robert Asher photo

Miss Maria began carrying the mail for the Jessee Post Office in 1898. She had the long, difficult ride up the Trujillo Trail. Later she had only the ride to Nellie. Even after the Jessee post office was discontinued she rode to Nellie for the mail.

The Carl Mendenhall family was living in Mendenhall Valley. The road to Dyche Valley passed the Frazier sisters' apple orchard. Mrs. Mendenhall had not seen Maria Frazier passing to get the mail from Nellie. She worried, knowing no one had been along the road past Fraziers. Her uneasiness grew. Finally she rode over to see if anything was wrong. Four days ago Miss Maria, exhausted from trying to corral some fractious calves, had come into the house and dropped down on her bed. Miss Maria had been dead four days! The neighbors came, and buried her. Miss Lizzie was taken east to relatives. Not long after, Mrs. Mendenhall received a letter: "Miss Lizzie died," it said, "while eating her breakfast."

Palomar campers, c1903 Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson photo

THE PASSING YEARS...

This mountain that has gained international fame through its great telescopes had become well known early in the 1900s through its two prominent families, the Mendenhalls and the Baileys.

Mendenhall Potrero ranch home (Cuca Ranch), 1937 Lena Bowley photo

The many homesteaders who had been drawn to Smith Mountain by the beauty of its wooded hills and valleys had been unable to make a living here. Enos T. Mendenhall had seen it as cattle country, and his vision had proved right. Eventually, homesteaders had to get what they could out of their holdings and move away. Eventually the Mendenhalls owned 11,000 acres of the mountain's beautiful valleys, for their cattle range, purchased from homesteaders. This had not been easy. During the 1890s cattle had sold at 2 cents a pound. They thought it was wonderful when they got 3 1/2 cents and 4 cents was very special. It wasn't until the family was grown that they got 7 cents. "All those years," says Mrs. Knox, "we were buying a place here, another place there, borrowing money to pay for them, never out of debt until just before father got sick and had to leave the mountain." During those years the Mendenhall boys had all gone through college.

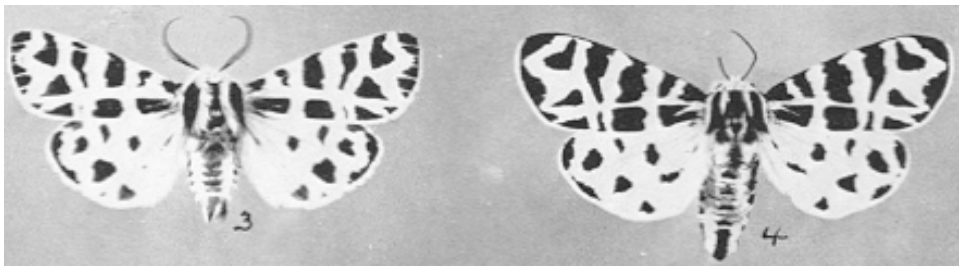
The home at Potrero [PB: Cuca Ranch] was built on land bought from the Trujillo Mexican Land Grant. Winter pastures at the foot of the mountain had been bought years before. When the banks were closing during the 1880 depression, Enos T. gave the bank in Escondido gold money he had in his safety vault to stop the run on that bank. From that time on either he or Sylvester J. Mendenhall could get any money they needed on personal notes. Enos T. died in 1904. He and Sylvester had been partners throughout the building up of the cattle business.

When he died, Sylvester bought out his share from his mother and sisters. He and his sons had become the mountain's "Cattle Kings." In 1920, if you went for a hike in Doane Valley you went quietly, and you were careful to leave gates just as you found them. For in Doane, as in many of the other beautiful valleys were sleek Black Angus grazing, and your permission to be there depended on your not startling them.

In 1920 this mountain and its post office became officially Palomar Mountain. Many people had worked hard to get back the original Spanish name. For half a century it had been called Smith Mountain, and the Post Office from its start had been Nellie. "It was always a joke," Mrs. Salmon says, "When it was mail time we would say, 'It's time to go see Nellie', or 'Let's go call on Nellie'." "Nellie" for many years was at Bailey's. But when government examination for postmaster was instituted, Dr. Milton Bailey did not care to bother with it, while running the resort. Esther Hewlett, though only in her teens, took the examination and became postmaster. [PB: Esther Parnell Hewlett, 1895-1975]

Esther already was winning fame collecting butterflies. Her specimens were sent to collectors all over the world. She was called "The Butterfly Girl." Her discovery of a moth -- an albino apantesis -- a yellow moth with black markings -- led to its being given her name. Esther Hewlett for many years has had an art shop at the mouth of San Antonio Canyon above Highway 66 and below Mount Baldy. Besides her activities with butterflies she has originated crochet patterns appearing in women's magazines.

[PB: Now known as *Grammia hewletti* or *Apantesis hewletti*, Esther's moth was originally described as a new variety of ornate tiger moth, *Apantesis ornata hewletti* var. nov.



The scientific description includes Esther's observation that the color variation between wild caught moths and her cage-bred moths is probably due to moisture differences. The common name for Esther's moth, if such a name would be used, would be Hewlett's tiger moth, and its range is now known to extend as far north as Sonoma County (Barnes, William and McDunnough, James Halliday. Contributions to the Natural History of the Lepidoptera of North America. Decatur, Ill., The Review press, 1918. Volume 4, Number 2, page 88 and plate xiii, figures 3 and 4)]

The Hewletts, when they came to the mountain, had bought the Old Mack Place -- now Phillips', with its fine apple orchard bordering State Park. When the Hewletts moved away they sold out to Alonzo G. Hayes -- "160 acres at $10 an acre, house thrown in but extra for furniture..." (quoting Elsie Hayes Roberts).

[PB: The Hewletts moved into the Mack place in spring 1913. John M. Mack (1860-1935), homesteaded by William H. Graves. The Hewletts moved away at the end of 1918. Alonzo Gilman Hayes (1849-1924). Elsie Reed Hayes Roberts (1888-1987). John Planwydd Roberts (1888-1946). Alice Mary Hayes Burley (1893-1988).]

The Hayes family did not stay on the mountain the year 'round, their daughters, Alice and Elsie, being in high school. So the Nellie Post Office was again at Bailey's. Then Elsie Hayes married Jack Roberts and they came up to stay. They named the place "Planwydd" and ran a resort.

Jack and Elsie Roberts, with their daughter Catherine, undated

Mrs. Roberts became Nellie's postmaster, and she joined the vigorous fight to get the name changed. She says, "A relative in Wisconsin knew the post office had a girl's name but he couldn't remember what. So he made a guess and addressed his letter to 'Anne, California'. It reached us."

Mrs. Roberts was postmaster from 1918 to 1922. The struggle to be rid of Nellie succeeded in 1920. So for two years she was postmaster of Palomar Mountain Post Office. Both the "Nellie" and "Smith" of pioneer days belonged only to the past.

When Mrs. Roberts left, the post office went to the Linthicums, near the present Crestline Camp. Linthicum was post master pro tem for about a week when his cabin burned. "The loss of the wall case and files was rather serious," says an oldtimer, "but we were all glad to have the post office back at Bailey's. And the old wall case was antiquated and not much use, anyway." [PB: Anna Linthicum was postmistress, married to Everett Clyde Linthicum.]

There have been years when nobody bid for the post office. "In 1912," Mrs. Hodgie Salmons says, "we ran the post office for free, just to keep it running, going down to Rincon to pick up the mail." But most of the time for about sixty years the post office was at Bailey's.

And during those years mail day held a special place for mountain residents. Three times a week they gathered to visit while the mail was distributed -- waiting for that "come and get it!" The moving of the post office in January 1958, marked the close of an era. The flavor of the old times vanished. The old Post Office stood, under a huge black oak. In the early 1900s this building replaced a much smaller one, this one having replaced a "cubbyhole" in the Lodge.

Dr. Milton Bailey had become postmaster when very young, and when, in 1913, he married Miss Adalind Shaul, she became acting postmaster. The resort was then in full swing. When Dr. Bailey died in 1942, Mrs. Claire Bussman took over the Lodge and the Post Office. But two years later Mrs. Bailey returned to the mountain, resumed her work as postmaster, and with the help of her sons, Steve and Newton, reopened the resort.

Old Post Office at Bailey's on Mail Day. People came and visited until Mrs. Bailey called "Come and get it."

Among her unusual experiences [Adalind Bailey] recalls the 1948 winter of the "Big Snow." "I couldn't get from my house to the Post Office. There was soft snow over my head. And no one could get in for their mail. It was just stacked and left."

That same year, on August 30th, the Palomar Mountain Observatory commemorative Stamp came out and "this Post Office was dragged from obscurity into the lime light."

Actress Greer Garson and Adalind Bailey, with the Palomar Observatory postcard and stamp, August 30, 1948 Los Angeles Herald Examiner photo

At a special ceremony in the Observatory [Adalind Bailey] was an honor guest.

She was escorted to the platform and introduced to Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, president of Cal Tech, and to Samuel R. Young from the office of Postmaster General in Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE OF THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Adalind Bailey
Postmaster

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

Monday, August 30, 1948, 2 *p.m.*

Palomar Mountain, California

Program signed by Adalind Bailey, Palomar Mountain postmaster

THE PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

CENTURY after century man has studied the stars and sought new knowledge of them. As he has advanced in knowledge, so too has his desire to know more and more about the vast universe of which our own planet is but an infinitesimal part. It has been this insatiable desire for new understanding about the universe that has driven men to design new, more intricate and larger instruments with which to study those "other worlds" about which we know so little.

The Palomar Observatory, with its giant 200-inch Hale telescope, is man's latest attempt to create new tools by which he can add further to his knowledge. The Hale telescope and the 18 and 48-inch Schmidt cameras atop Palomar Mountain are the instruments with which the astronomer will probe new distances into space—a billion light years from earth—and accumulate new knowledge of the entire heavens.

This already famous observatory, for which a commemorative stamp has been issued today, is symbolic of more than man's desire to see further into space. It is also symbolic of man's cooperative spirit. It was funds made available by the Rockefeller Foundation plus the time and energy given unstintingly by many men in many fields that enabled the California Institute of Technology to create this wonder of science. Now as it is about to go into operation, Palomar becomes a part of another vast cooperative project in which two observatories, Mt. Wilson and Palomar, are combined into a single enterprise with a single objective and common director.

The Palomar Observatory was conceived in 1928 by the late Dr. George Ellery Hale, for whom the 200-inch telescope was named, and today, 20 years later, it is nearing the time when it will go into full operation. Then will follow long periods of patient observation and even more patient study and analysis of those observations. From all this will come new enlightenment for all mankind.

PROGRAM

LEE A. DUBRIDGE, *Presiding*
President, California Institute of Technology

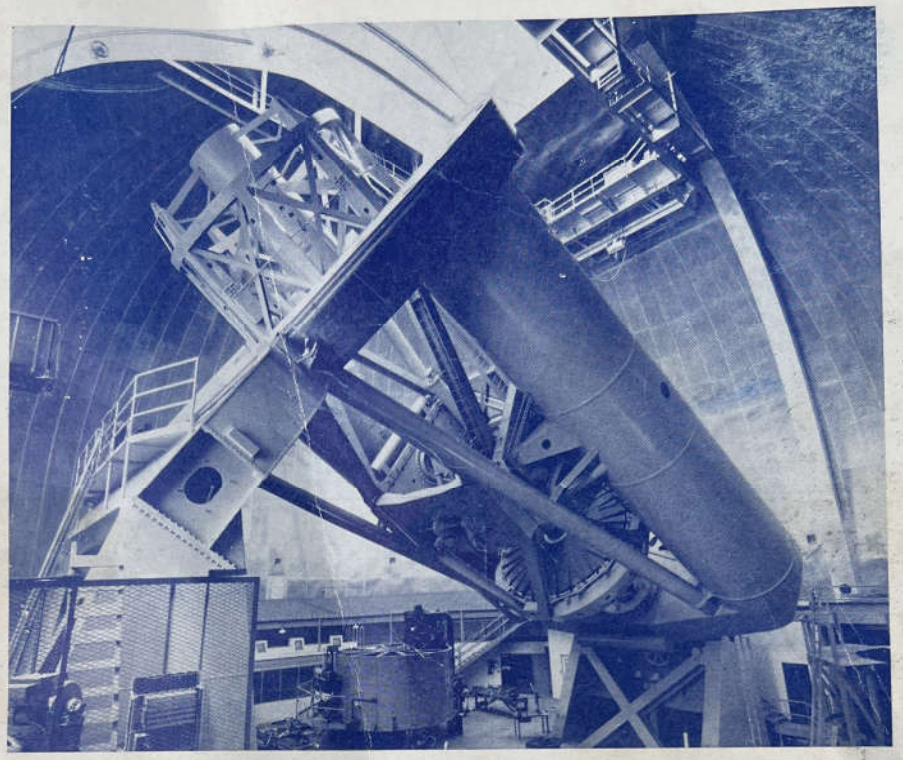
INVOCATION ..... Rev. Charles Severns
University Christian Church, San Diego

WELCOME ..... Honorable DeGraff Austin
Chairman, Board of Supervisors, San Diego County

REMARKS ..... Clarence H. Dawson
President, Palomar Philatelic Society

PRESENTATION OF STAMP ALBUMS ..... Honorable S. R. Young
Executive Assistant to Postmaster General

RESPONSE ..... Ira S. Bowen
Director, Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories



THE HALE TELESCOPE showing the tube pointing to the north and at nearly full declination. The tube is within the prongs of the giant horseshoe bearing which makes it possible to point the telescope to the north polar star. The weight of the entire structure is 530 tons. The cover for the 200-inch mirror in the base of the tube is in the closed position. On the floor in the background is the tank in which the big 17-foot mirror was aluminized to give it its reflecting surface and convert it into a mirror. Overhead can be seen the huge 60-ton crane which moves across the top of the 1000-ton observatory dome.

Mrs. Bailey retired on December 31, 1957. Commemorative of the old days, there were still in the post office two canvas money sacks with the label, "Nellie, Calif."

Shirley Thompson at the Summit Grove post office

Wayne and Shirley Thompson, at Summit Grove, succeeded Mrs. Bailey as Postmaster.

[PB: Wayne Franklin Thompson (1913-2004) and Shirley Ann Heckmeyer Thompson (1928-2015)]

One day at Bailey's, while we were waiting for the mail to be distributed, Mrs. Salmons said to me, "When the snow is gone we'll show you 'Miss Nellie's'. It's still standing."

It was the year of the "Big Snow," when snow covered all of San Diego County and six feet of it fell on the mountaintop and stayed from January till May. A number of cabins were crushed under its weight. I was delighted at the prospect of seeing our historic post office so, early one June morning, I drove over to the Salmons. For years they had owned all of Dyche Valley. Recently they had sold out to Dr. Maury Jameson, reserving eleven acres overlooking the country below, for their beautiful new adobe home.

Louis had come in the 1880s from New Mexico and had married Emma Littlefield. She had died, leaving him with five small daughters. When he married Hodgie Bailey she had been living in San Diego, working in Ernstine's Jewelers as diamond cutter. In her later years Mrs. Salmons had turned to art and had become well known for her beautiful Palomar landscapes.

[PB: Beckler said Louis Salmons married Lucinda Cook. In 1896, Louis Salmons (1872-1959) married Emma Littlefield of Palomar Mountain (1877-1910); her middle name may have been Lucinda. Emma's parents were Charlotte Cook and James A. Littlefield. Charlotte Cook was the firstborn child of Jefferson Madison Cook and his second wife Lucinda. James Barker lived in Barker Valley with Charlotte Cook Littlefield, their daughter Charlotte Barker, and Charlotte Cook Littlefield's children from her preceding marriage to James Littlefield including Emma. Emma Littlefield used the Barker last name throughout her life; she married Louis Salmons, who referred to her as Emma Barker, and is identified as Emma Barker in the U.S. Census and newspaper stories. Louis Salmons' daughters were Mahulda Neal Salmons (1897-1946), Mary Rebecca Salmons (1900-1995), Marie Marjorie Salmons (1901-1995), Harriet Ora Salmons (1902-1974), and Emma Louise Salmons (1908-1999). Louis Salmons married Hodgie Trabue Bailey (1874-) in 1914 (San Diego Union, January 23, 1914, page 2, column 4). Robert Asher wrote that Hodgie Salmons had worked as a gem cutter at Joseph Jessops & Sons (My Palomar. Robert Haley Asher. Peter Brueggeman, editor. archive.org/details/asher-my-palomar_202402]

It was a perfect morning when they took me to see "Miss Nellie's." The road was an alley between fences. On our left was what remained of Seburn's apple orchard [PB: Beckler has it spelled Seibern's]. Ahead, on our right, was the George Cook place, the house hidden in poplars and the ancient orchard. Louis opened two gates, then drove through fields of ferns, window high. On the hillside above us, nearly a century ago, Joseph Smith had built his house. We drove down into a meadow, walked through lush grass toward a clump of cedars. Here was where "Miss Nellie's" had been. But the heavy snow had crushed it. What remained of its timbers lay hidden under the bracken.

Mrs. Salmons pointed toward the east end of the meadow, toward a group of towering trees. "Old Joe Smith's 'Trees of Heaven'," she said, "from seed he brought from China!" So the trees still grow, commemorating that lusty sea-captain's charm. As to Nellie McQueen, the small, energetic first postmaster who brought mail service to this isolated region of the early days and gave her name, unwillingly, to the post office -- may she be long-remembered for her courage and endurance. Nellie Post Office was as much a part of the old time mountain scene as the beauty of the woods, the deep blue of the skies and the closeness of the stars.

THE BEACH BROTHERS...

The site for the observatories was purchased by the California Institute of Technology in 1934. This included government land, Mendenhall land, and the ranch of William and Kenneth Beach. The brothers had come up the mountain at the close of the First World War, in 1918. Old time friends of the family, Edward Fleming Charnock, Nathan Snow Charnock and Herman S. Garrison, had homesteaded in the early 1900s, and now the land -- three hundred twenty acres -- was theirs. They had come up to find it.

[PB: Kenneth Beach was William Beach's step-brother. Beckler says the homesteaders were Edward F. Charnock and Frank Garrison. U.S. General Land Office records identify the homesteaders as Edward Fleming Charnock, his nephew Nathan Snow Charnock, and Herman S. Garrison. Frank Garrison was a nephew of Herman S. Garrison.]

Their father was a pioneer doctor in Los Angeles, Dr. George H. Beach, with his office near the now-famous Plaza. Bill Beach was a college man, a mining engineer. Kenneth had not yet finished high school. It was the spring of the year when they drove up Nate Harrison Grade, a road not built for automobiles. Their big Chalmers boiled all the way. They made it to Bailey's and stopped to ask the way. Theodore Bailey got horses and took them to the old Charnock & Garrison homestead. No one had been there for years. There was no road beyond French Valley. They found the ranch, with its one-room cabin a little way east of where the Astronomers' Lodge is now. Bill and Kenneth returned to Los Angeles, bought two colts, an old mule, and a wagon. With a load of supplies they started back to the mountain.

Those who have traveled the west end grade will remember the two spots where the mountain slopes level off somewhat, named by the oldtimers Little Tin Can Flat and Big Tin Can Flat. The brothers spent five days getting to Big Tin Can Flat. Here the old mule died and the colts

had sore feet. They took the colts to Escondido to be shod. Again they started up the mountain. This time they took their load in relays. With as much as the colts could pull up the steep climb, they would go some distance, unload, go back for more. Load, climb, unload, return for more, until they finally got all their goods to the top. The road at that time dropped into Doane Valley at about Cedar Grove, then down into Lower Doane and up the steep climb to the north, into French Valley. From here, there being no road, the brothers, with mattock and spade, cut their way through heavy brush and made one.

William Beach, October 1933

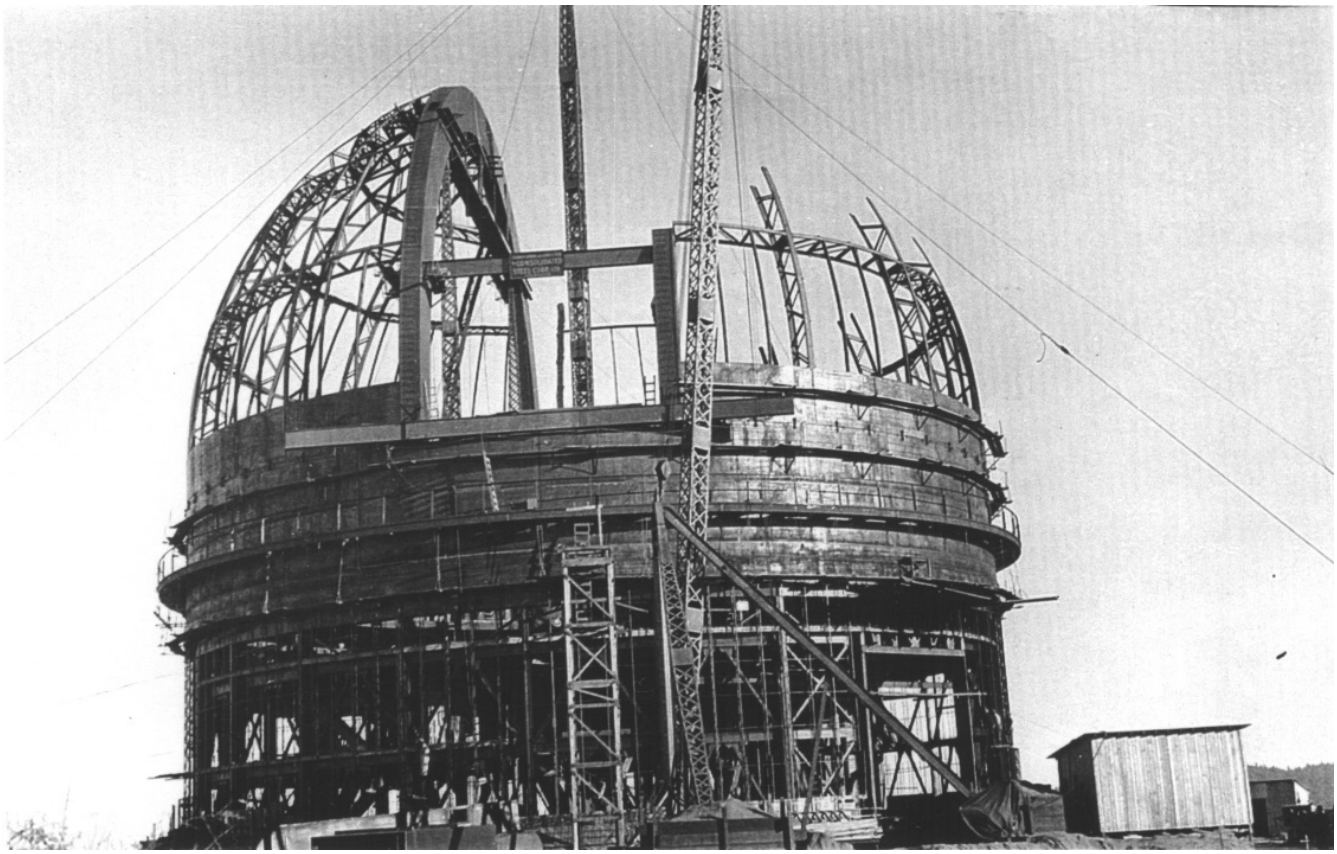
Bill and Kenneth Beach spent that first winter in their one-room cabin. They built a barn, making their own lumber with whip-saw and pit. They plowed the whole area where the observatories stand. They planted corn and citrons and raised pigs. Others before them had found that farming on Smith Mountain did not make a living.

Kenneth began working in summer for the three resorts -- there were three at that time -- and going to school in winter. He ran the stage to San Diego for Bailey's.

Bill Beach married a schoolteacher. [PB: William Beach's wife was Marion Beach.] He built a log house near the present schoolhouse. The green house at the edge of the schoolyard, used by astronomers when they bring up their families, was built from his barn.

The Beach brothers had been on the mountain twenty years when the scientists of Cal Tech began taking Palomar Mountain seriously as a location for the great telescope. They set up a complete weather station and Bill Beach made observations and kept the records. Scientists came up every week for checking and testing. The second summer students began coming up to observe visibility.

It was impossible now for Bill Beach to leave his post, however low supplies might get in winter. Kenneth was then working for the California Title, Insurance and Trust Company. He made a practice of keeping tab on the weather, and when it seemed likely that the Bill Beaches were snowed in, he would drive to Aguanga, pack supplies on his back and climb up the north side of the mountain -- a most difficult trail through high brush. The scientific observations were continued from 1928 to 1934. Bill Beach kept a log of the people who came up to check on his observations. It includes many notable names, such as George Ellery Hale for whom the great telescope was named.

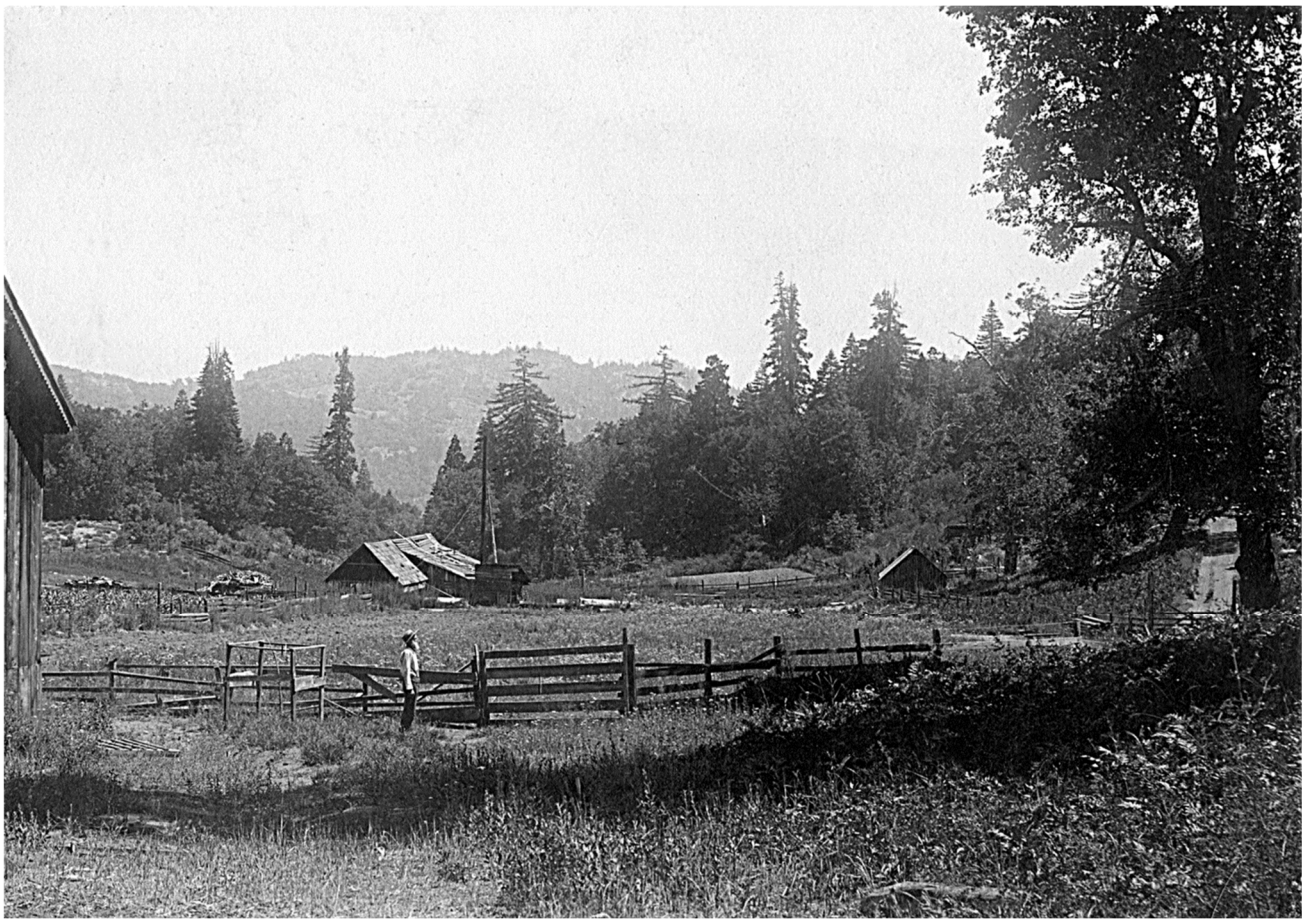


Observatory construction, 22 September 1937

During these years Table Mountain in Arizona was also being considered as the telescope site. Table Mountain's visibility was found to be about equal to that on Palomar. But its vulnerability to earthquakes set the decision against it. Palomar, on its great granite base, is unique in its resistibility to earthquakes. Years before, Theodore Bailey had noted the mountain's clear air and had talked of its perfection as a telescope site. And now, long after his death, the scientists made it their choice. The Beach property, on the desert side of the mountain, away from the clouds that drift in from the Pacific over the west and south areas, had proved itself to the astronomers.

THE PALOMAR COMMUNITY ...

CAMP SITES

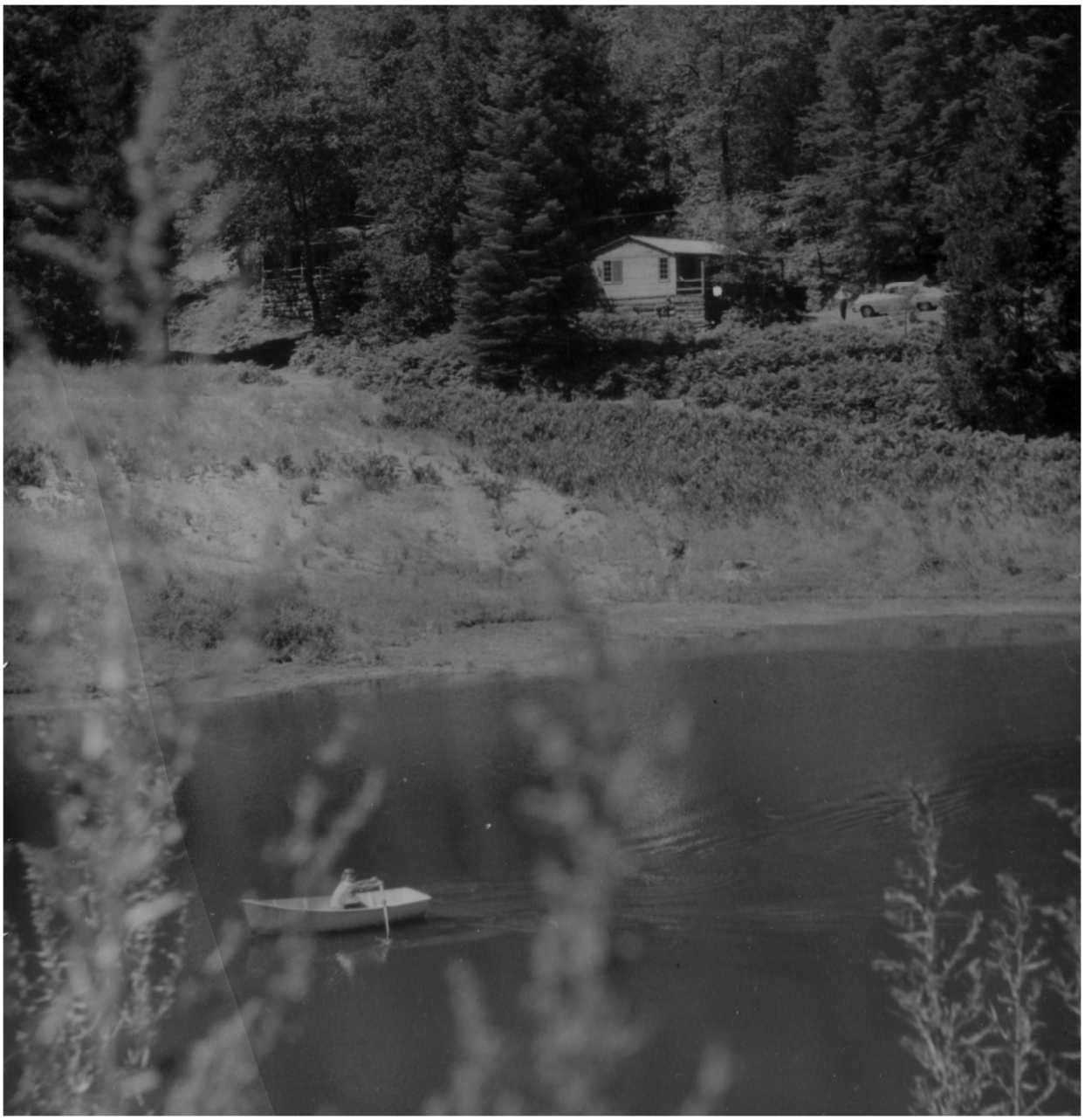


Striplin's Valley and Sawmill, now Pedley Valley

The first settlers in Pedley Valley seem to have been among those who did not remain long on the mountain. The valley was then owned by Thomas J. "Tom" Powers and was known as "Powers Valley" when Enos T. Mendenhall's old friend, Samuel Striplin, came and bought out Powers. Sam Striplin started the sawmill, which supplied lumber for many of the mountain cabins. The old sawmill boiler is still rusting away, and the meadow at the east of the valley was known for many years as "The Old Bull Pasture," for it pastured the sawmill oxen. The Pedleys bought out Striplin.

[PB: Beckler says Powers homesteaded Pedley Valley. On July 20, 1891, it's recorded that Thomas J. Powers paid cash entry for 160 acres in Pedley Valley and Bull Pasture on Palomar Mountain (U.S. Department the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx). Names are Samuel Striplin and William L. Wilhite brought lumber down from their Palomar sawmill to provide building materials for the growing towns of Valley Center, Escondido and San Diego. Samuel Striplin's wife was Priscilla. Beckler said the Pedleys bought out Striplin; buyers were a group from Pomona: Nathan Chaffin Pedley (1862 – 1931), Dr. Edward Ernest Henderson (1850 – 1914), Edwin Trumbull Palmer (1854 – 1940) and Frank Herbert Merrill (1859 – 1917) See Pomona Progress, March 28, 1910, page 5, column 2]

The "Old Bull Pasture" is now owned by Charles and Jean Darby of La Jolla, who are starting a resort. [PB: Darby's Palomar Mountain Resort, in operation during the 1950s-1960s.]



Darby's Palomar Mountain Resort, Bull Pasture. Robin Darby Howell in boat.

The area known as "Camp Sites" [PB: now Crestline] was started in 1920 on land owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey, widow of a cousin of the Theodore Baileys.

Later, in 1923, Carl Mendenhall was the official agent for an additional subdivision of the adjoining Pedley land. This also was called "Camp Sites"

[PB: Beckler says the Campsites subdivision was started in 1921 or 1922. It was started in 1920 by Reid Wallace and Scott S. Purkey on land owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey (Palomar from Teepee to Telescope. Catharine M. Wood. San Diego: Frye & Smith. 1937). Then according to Leona Mendenhall Bloomer, about 1923, Carl Mendenhall and Reid Wallace subdivided forty acres, built roads, and donated land for a store and restaurant. 1924 to 1926 were boom years with many lots sold, cabins built, many parties, and dances twice a week at the Camp Sites club house or at Baileys. The Depression halted this boom period in Palomar vacation home real estate (Memories of the Mendenhalls on Palomar Mountain – and later. Leona Bloomer and excerpts from others [Carl, Dick, Leona Bloomer Mendenhalls]. Undated).]

The U.S. Geological Survey Maps show the area as "Birch Hill," named for the two young Englishmen, Harry [PB: Henry C. Birch] and Arthur C. Birch, who homesteaded there.

But when the 1920 subdivisions were made, they were for camp sites. Occasionally there is an outburst among the early cabin owners to have the name "Birch Hill" restored, but nothing comes of it.

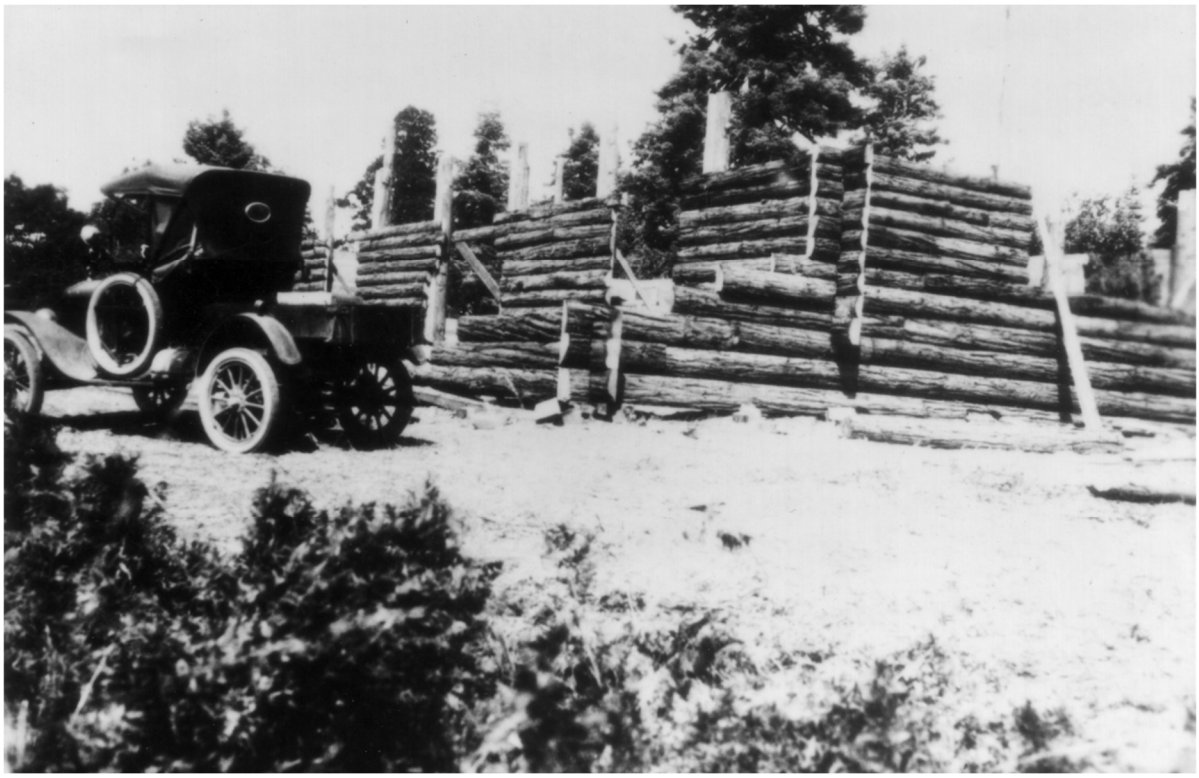
There are between 100 and 200 cabins on Camp Sites, owned by people of San Diego, Escondido, Oceanside, and other neighboring towns.

To start the project, Pedley gave land for a well and Ralph Tillinghast, resident of the area, contracted to dig the well. William Reid Wallace built the reservoir. Jefferson Stickney, lawyer, incorporated the Water Company. Then the first cabin owners got together and raised a fund for the building of a clubhouse. Ralph Tillinghast, who was operating the sawmill, supplied cedar logs and sawed lumber of cedar and fir, and a fine community house was built. Stanley Davis built the fireplace. Then Lawyer Stickney incorporated it. [PB: Beckler said William R. Wallace.]

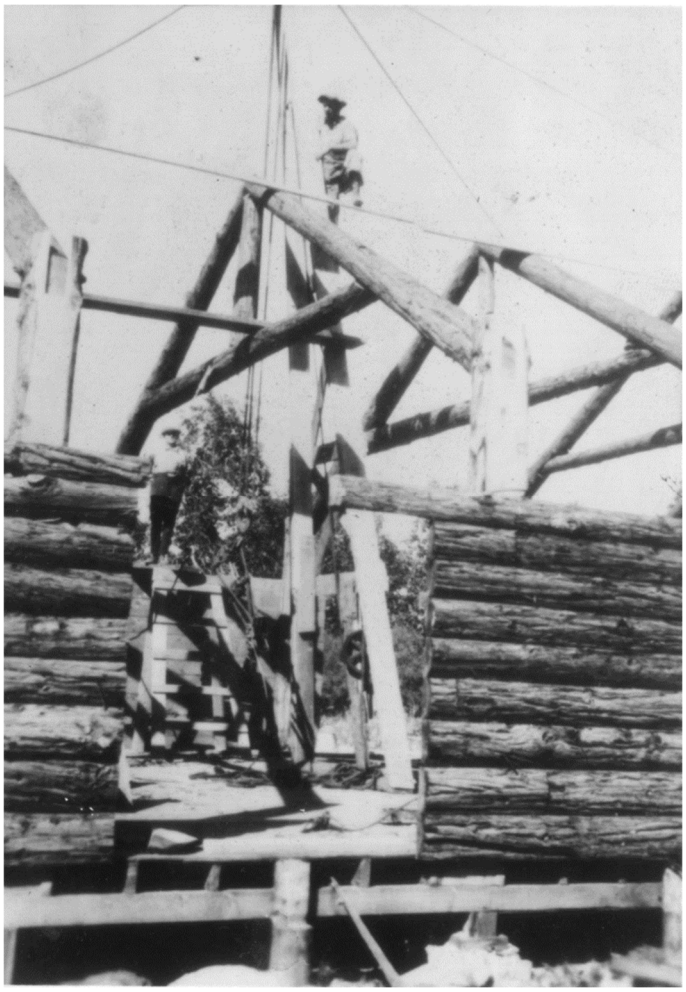
This clubhouse was the place of evening gatherings for people of the community. They walked from their cabins with lanterns which they placed about for light. They visited about the big fireplace, or they danced, and they sat out on the porch with its view of all the vast country and cities below.

The Clubhouse fell into disrepair. Mrs. Tillinghast says, "You could see outdoors through the chinks in the walls." Then heavy winter snow broke down the roof. Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Shupe of Murrieta leased the building (PB: in 1927), the incorporated treasury was drained for repairs, a kitchen and lunch room were added. The Clubhouse became "Edgewood Tavern."

[PB: Beckler wrote “By 1930 the Clubhouse had fallen into disrepair.” Frank W. Shupe leased the clubhouse for ten years, renamed it Edgewood Tavern, and added a dining hall and kitchen (San Diego Evening Tribune, July 9, 1927, page 9, column 5). Beckler said George Shupe.]



Campsites clubhouse construction



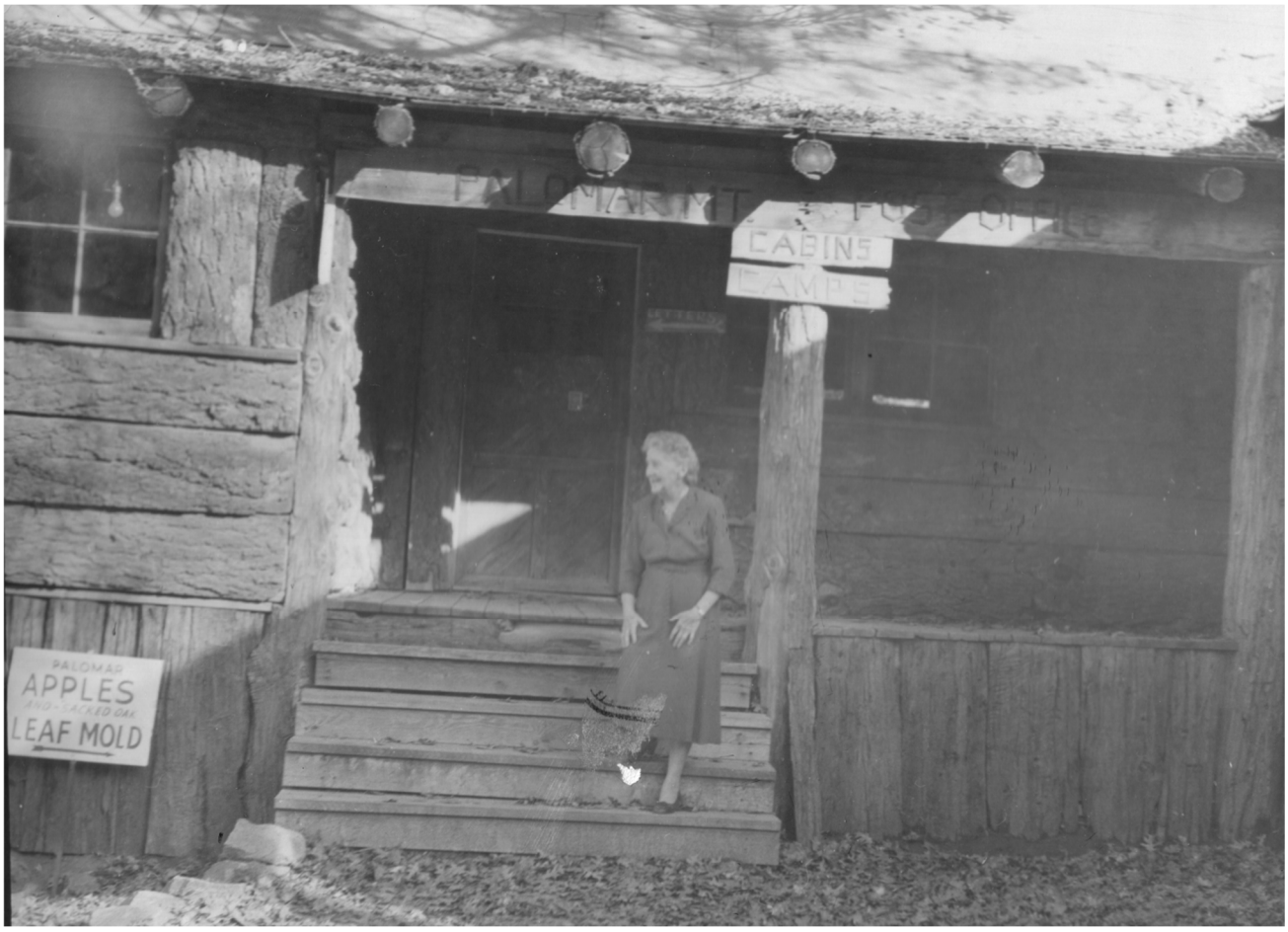
Campsites clubhouse under construction

In 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Art and Mildred Koenig of La Mesa bought the old Clubhouse, added bedrooms, found the sign, "Edgewood Tavern" down a canyon where children had slid on it in the snow. They opened a hotel: "Skyline View Guest Ranch," later named "Skyline Lodge."

[PB: Beckler wrote "In the 1940s"]

BAILEY'S

Much of the former Bailey Resort has been subdivided and sold for cabin lots. Many of the families who used to come up to enjoy the summer in the resort come up now to their cabins. There are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Beach and family. The Arthur Thompson children, Barney and Timmy and Kathy, make the fourth generation of the Van Rensselaer and Couts families. (Nan Van Rensselaer-Couts used to be hostess when Dr. Milton Bailey was operating the Lodge.) And there is Mrs. Elsie Roberts and her daughter's family, the Charles Beishlines.



Adalind Bailey

On Saturday evenings there is dancing in the old lodge dining-room. Mrs. Adalind Bailey, a charming hostess, is preserving the tradition of the once famous "Bailey Resort."

STATE PARK

When a State Park on Palomar was under consideration, the granddaughter of Enos T. Mendenhall, Mary Knox, put this plea, in part, before the Escondido Woman's Club: "Let us think of the future history of Palomar, hoping that some day...the people of all Southern California will realize that this is the natural playground...with thousands of acres available; that they will obtain it for a park; make it a game refuge where the deer can be free to feed

without fear...Where Palomar's own wild pigeon will settle down at eventide unafraid; where all may go to rest, play, or picnic."

Purchases of land for a State Park were started by the State of California in 1932. 1724 acres, then 40 acres more were added, making the total of 1,764 acres. This area included the homesteads of William Bougher, William Pearson, Solomon Todd, and George Doane, and others who had played their part in the Palomar Story. And Mrs. Knox's hopes for a place of recreation for the people and a refuge for wildlife has been realized.

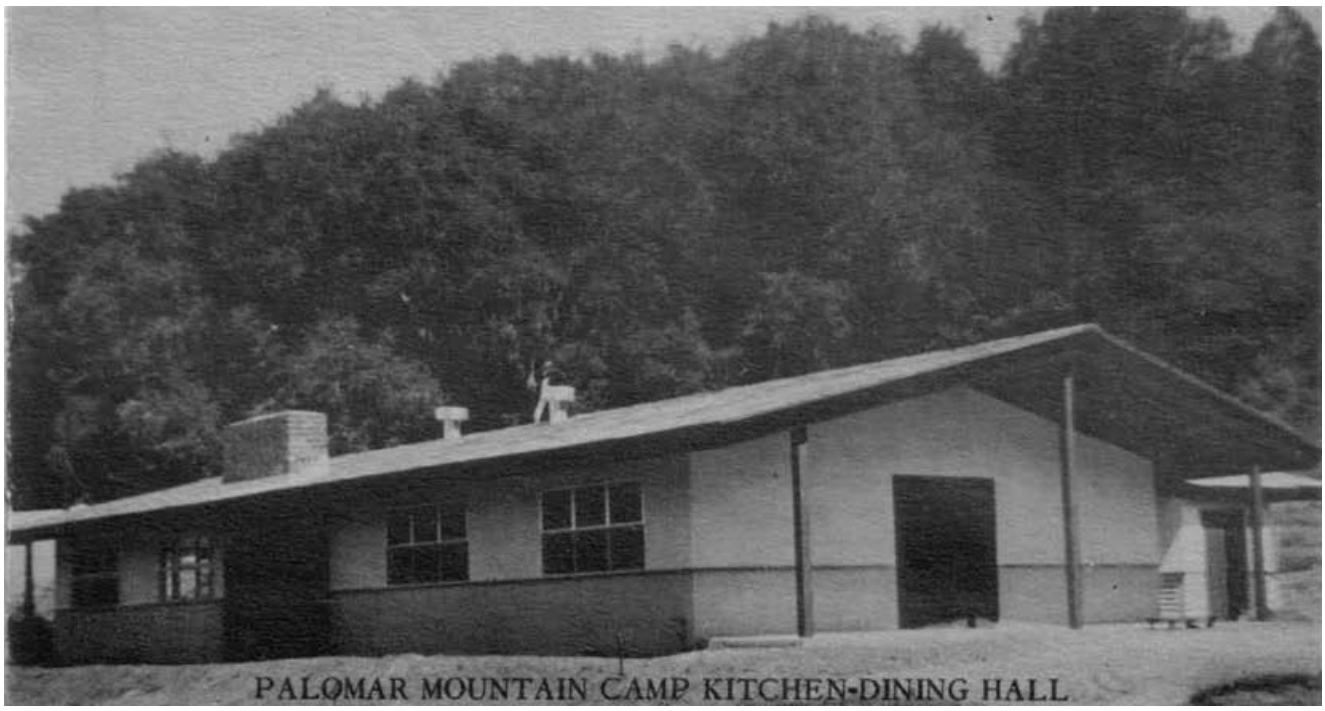
CITY-COUNTY CAMP

This area is leased from the State by the city and county of San Diego. The buildings were originally the Palomar Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. When one of the CCC buildings burned it was replaced by a modern administration building.

This camp was started in 1949 as Palomar Youth Camp. Each week a group came up from a city or county school. [PB: later named Palomar Outdoor School, which closed in 2011.] A similar camp had been started on Cuyamaca. Edwin E. Pumala of San Diego was Executive Secretary of the two camps.

Russell Davies, camp director of Palomar, explained the objectives of the camp projects, saying, "There is no cut and dried program. Instruction is upon any living problem that may come up, and includes the proper use of all public facilities, manners, care of the camp. The first excursion for a group is usually to the telescope. Always included is a hike up Boucher Hill Lookout where watershed is studied and Claude Huse instructs the teenagers on fire prevention and control."

To this City-County School Camp come groups of about 100 students each week, Monday to Friday. When school term is over the San Diego Police Department rewards the boys of the Junior Patrol with a week in Camp.



Kitchen-Dining Hall at 1958 dedication, Palomar Mountain Camp

The last of the summer, ending on Labor Day, is the time for "Family Camp." Of this, Davies, the first director, said, "The modern recreation centers tend to divide families into age groups. The objective of Palomar Camp is to correct this."

BAPTIST CAMP

Baptist Camp borders State Park on the west [PB: later name is Palomar Christian Conference Center]. The first camp held on the original camp site located on Pauma Creek was a Boy Scout Camp, June 17th to July 1st, 1933. This was on the first fifteen acres donated by Robert H. Asher, and was directed by Rev. Robert C. Fleisher of San Diego.

Robert Asher speaking at Baptist Camp Administration Building Dedication, June 21, 1947

In January 1945, Asher sold 100 acres of his land to the camp, to be added to the original camp. Then in the same year, in August, George Sawday sold 160.91 acres to the camp. At Asher's death [PB: in 1953], his will provided that the balance of the land he owned should be given to Baptist Camp, bringing the total to 320.91 acres. The first building of the Camp, the administration building, has been named in Robert Asher's honor, "Asher's Lodge."

Church groups of various denominations come up throughout the year to enjoy beautiful Baptist Camp. Besides the dormitories, there is a kitchen and large hall for dining, for church services, or entertainment; and there is a fine swimming pool.

Robert H. Asher, the first donor to Baptist Camp, lived on Palomar for over 35 years. He built his hut over Pauma Creek.

To make his living he gathered and sold various medicinals such as cascara bark, foliage of red-bark, jimson weed from which chemists obtain a substance for dilating the eyes, asparagus plumosa ferns and many bulbs.

Robert Asher painting.

Robert Asher was considered the best informed man on the county history, was well informed in horticulture, geology, and mineralogy. He was a talented artist.

[PB: Beckler said incorrectly that "Robert Asher had been a pioneer nurseryman in San Diego, and had come to San Diego with Alonzo Horton, Father of San Diego." Alonzo Horton was friends in San Francisco with Robert Asher's **father**, Josephus Marion Asher. Josephus Asher and his wife Sarah decided to come to San Diego along with their son Robert Asher in 1869, and they were met by Alonzo Horton. The Ashers purchased lots in downtown San Diego from Alonzo Horton, and opened San Diego's first nursery and florist shop there. Josephus Asher was the pioneer nurseryman in San Diego, later moving to El Cajon Valley.]

PALOMAR'S TWO FIRE LOOKOUTS

Palomar Mountain is included in the Cleveland National Forest, and the state forestry and the national forestry work in close cooperation. For the detection of fires in the entire southern counties, the U.S. Forestry maintains the Lookout on High Point, and the State Forestry maintains the Boucher Hill Lookout [PB: both are now manned by the Forest Fire Lookout Association].

Boucher Hill Lookout is one of the primary fire lookouts, the others being on Mount Woodson, near Ramona, Tecate Peak near the Mexican border, and Red Mountain near Fallbrook. In case of fire anywhere in the county, two or more lookouts get the direction and phone their findings to the main office in La Mesa.

The present Boucher Hill Tower was built in 1949. It replaced the old tower built in 1934. It is open during the entire fire season which varies with each year, opening in May or June, and closing after the rains begin in fall or winter. During the months of fire-hazard the lookout man is on 24-hour duty. He works ten days then is off four days, replaced then by the supply man.

This tower is open to visitors, and many thousands visit it each year. Claude Huse, promoted last year to a forestry position in Riverside County, was on duty in Boucher Tower for twelve years.

The federal stations serving this district are on Santiago Peak in Orange County, Lyons Peak near Jamul, Cuyamaca, and High Point on Palomar. The altitude of Palomar's highest point is 6,137.7 feet.

[PB: Santiago Peak and Lyons Peak stations are no longer manned.]

High Point Lookout

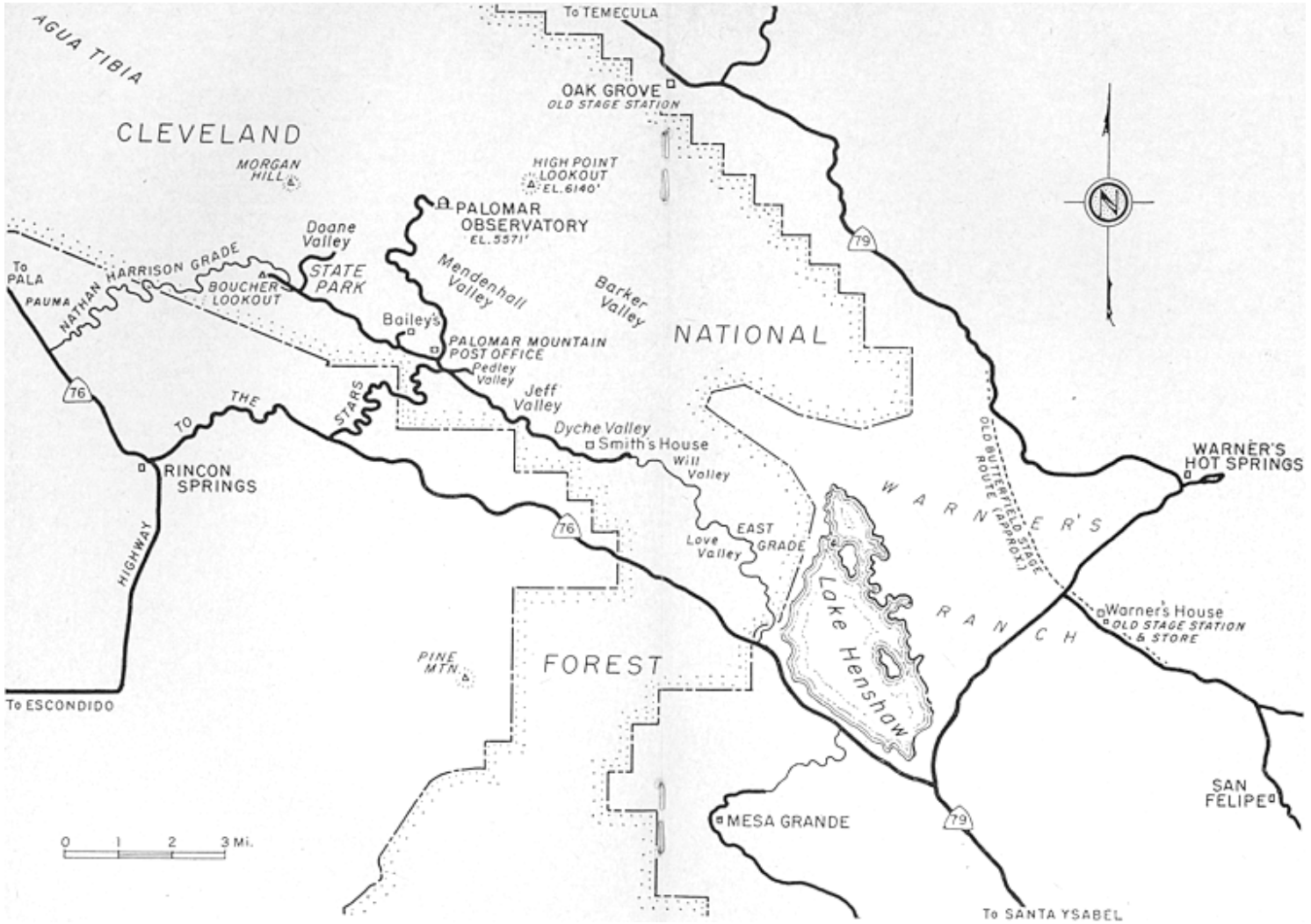
The High Point Lookout is not open to the public. It is a forty-five foot tower with an exposed stairway, with a trap-door at the top, into a room 6 1/2 feet square.

Here Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin (Benny) Moore share the 24-hour duty during the entire fire season. They have no "supply man." With the exception of a few months while they were on duty at another lookout, they have served on High Point since it was built in 1934.

Benny Moore's first service was in 1919, in Washington and Oregon. In 1949 he was awarded a medal for ten years of consecutive service with the U.S. forestry.

Palomar Mountain School field trip to the High Point home of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Moore, early 1950s. Woman is probably Mrs. Benny Moore. From right, the children are John David Mendenhall, Vera Griggs in front, Eddie Griggs behind her (their father was a state park ranger), Carol Traxler (wearing glasses, daughter of Observatory staffperson), other children unknown.

Campers on Palomar Mountain, c1903 Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson photo


AGUA TIBIA
To TEMECULA
OAK GROVE
OLD STAGE STATION
CLEVELAND
MORGAN HILL
HIGH POINT LOOKOUT
EL. 6140'
PALOMAR OBSERVATORY
EL. 5571'
Doane Valley
STATE PARK
To PALA
PAUMA
NATHAN HARRISON GRADE
BOUCHER LOOKOUT
Mendenhall Valley
Barker Valley
Bailey's
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN POST OFFICE
Pedley Valley
NATIONAL
Jeff Valley
Dyche Valley
Smith's House
Will Valley
THE STARS
TO
RINCON SPRINGS
HIGHWAY
To ESCONDIDO
EAST GRADE
Love Valley
OLD BUTTERFIELD STAGE ROUTE (APPROX.)
WARNER'S HOT SPRINGS
WARNER'S RANCH
Warner's House
OLD STAGE STATION & STORE
Lake Henshaw
PINE MTN.
FOREST
MESA GRANDE
SAN FELIPE
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